

US caught off guard by EC initiative

Hurd wary of Europe's peace move on Gulf

By MICHAEL BINYON, MICHAEL KNIFE AND MARTIN FLETCHER

BRITAIN appeared to be at odds with its partners last night as the European Community prepared to make a last-ditch effort to avert war in the Gulf.

Following the announcement of a special EC meeting both Britain and the United States cautioned against giving the wrong signals to President Saddam Hussein. The foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, gave a warning that Iraq must not be given the impression that the world was ready to do a deal.

At an emergency meeting on Friday the Community is expected to agree on seeking direct talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. The special envoy to Baghdad would be Jacques Poos, the foreign minister of Luxembourg, the country which assumes the EC presidency today.

Mr Poos said yesterday that if he receives that authorisation he will make immediate contact with the Iraqis and set off as soon as possible before the UN January 15 deadline by which Iraqi forces must be out of Kuwait. Luxembourg has arranged the emergency meeting in the Grand Duchy

at the request of several member states who believe not all the channels of diplomacy have been exhausted.

"There is a chance, not a good chance, for peace as long as the issues are clear and not blurred," Mr Hurd told BBC radio. For its part, the Bush administration reacted cautiously to the idea of a European initiative, with officials privately expressing anxiety that it could lead to an unwelcome compromise with Iraq. Apparently caught off guard by the EC's move, the American officials said they hoped the US would be able to consult Community leaders before any direct talks.

"We are not dismissing this as a bad thing, but the other part of it is we would not wish to see any partial solution offered," said one official. But Mr Poos said in a television interview that there was no question of a partial solution.

As the EC announcement was made King Hussein of Jordan revealed that he will travel to London and other European capitals this week in another attempt to find an Arab solution. In the Gulf itself, Iraq accused Western navies of piracy after an Iraqi-registered tanker was boarded on suspicion that it was carrying embargoed goods for Baghdad. It was found to be empty.

tion 678 "without any restraint" before other Middle East questions could be discussed.

He has already suggested that Mr Aziz could be invited to Friday's meeting. Last month the Community confirmed its decision not to hold talks with Mr Aziz unless he first met President Bush in Washington.

Mr Hurd clashed publicly with Edward Heath yesterday over how best to resolve the confrontation in the Gulf. He accused the former Conservative prime minister of blurring the issues and thus lessening the prospects of a peaceful outcome. Mr Heath had welcomed the idea of an EC mission saying such a mission was long overdue and should be greatly welcomed. He accused the West of not having put sufficient effort into diplomatic initiatives to resolve the confrontation peacefully.

Mr Heath said he did not accept that the Americans were operating with the sanction of the UN because it had not done anything about the diplomatic initiative required by paragraph three of the first UN resolution 660, which calls for Iraq and Kuwait to settle their differences.

"To have the president of the most powerful country in the world saying 'I'm going to kick Saddam up the arse', isn't international politics," said Mr Heath on Radio 4's *The World at One*. "It isn't diplomacy at all. Tens of thousands of lives depend on this and the whole of the world economy."

Speaking on the same programme immediately afterwards, Mr Hurd appeared to be irritated by Mr Heath. "If you want a reason for the caution which we show about separate Community initiatives you just have to listen to Ted Heath."

Cautioning against premature expectations of an EC initiative to send Mr Poos to Baghdad, Mr Hurd said the only initiative under way was the calling of the meeting of Community foreign ministers.

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MP gets all clear for army service

By LIN JENKINS

A CONSERVATIVE MP is volunteering to serve in a medical support team in the Gulf after defence ministry lawyers spent several days checking to see whether, as a member of Parliament, he was eligible.

Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon, south-west London, will join the Life Guards as a surgeon-captain. The defence ministry said it believed that he would be the first MP to serve in uniform since the second world war.

Dr Goodson-Wickes, an occupational physician, said: "It took several days before I was told that I was eligible as an MP. I had resigned my commission in 1977 to stand for Parliament, and while I was compulsorily on the reserve list for some years I have since volunteered to be on it."

His wife Hoppy and two sons support his decision. "Being young boys they are rather excited about it and my wife has been an army wife. In fact, I went straight from my honeymoon to serve in Northern Ireland."



Goodson-Wickes: back in surgeon-captain's uniform



Last goodbye: Dame Joan Sutherland arriving for rehearsals at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, yesterday. Devoted fans had queued for up to 48 hours for a chance to see her farewell appearance on the stage where she was first propelled into the international spotlight more than 30 years ago. The theatre traditionally keeps

more than 50 tickets for sale on performance day. It was to buy these for last night's production of *Die Fledermaus*, also starring Luciano Pavarotti, that admirers, fortified by bottles of wine, queued so determinedly. A spokesman for the opera house said he could not remember when last there was such a demand for tickets.

Six killed in road crashes as driving rain sweeps UK

By DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

DRIVING rain throughout Britain is thought to have contributed to the deaths of six people in road accidents yesterday.

Two people were killed on the M27 in Hampshire when a van crashed through the central reservation and hit a Vauxhall Cavalier. A man and a woman in the Cavalier died and a girl, aged 14, and a boy, aged 16, were seriously injured.

A petrol tanker travelling behind the Cavalier struck the van and skidded 100 yards before bursting into flames. The driver escaped.

The accident happened in what police described as "moonlight conditions".

In another crash, Stephen Coughlan, aged 50, died with his daughter, Sophie, aged nine, and a family friend Patrick Wrenn, aged 78, when their car collided with a Range Rover in the Peak District. The accident happened just a few miles from the Coughlan's home in Barber Booth, Edale.

In Gloucestershire, a mother taking her baby for a walk in its pram was killed and the baby seriously injured when they were hit by a car at Inchbrook on the A46 between Stroud and Nailsworth. The baby, who has not been named, is "poorly" in hospital.

In Scotland the Northern

Constabulary said that so many motorists were calling their headquarters that it was seriously affecting operational efficiency. A spokesman urged motorists to phone the Roadline number 0463 222441.

The forecast for today is that a strong southwest wind will bring rain across all of the British Isles.

More than 2,000 skiers yesterday managed to make their way on to slopes in the Cairngorms after being frustrated by blocked roads at the weekend. A spokesman for the

Cairngorm Chairlift Company said some 600 cars reached the ski centre after the access road was cleared.

"Conditions are very, very good, almost alpine and we are now looking forward to a good spell of excellent skiing," he said. At the Aonach Mor centre near Fort William more than 800 people reached the slopes in spite of the A82 Glasgow to Fort William road being blocked by huge drifts at Glencoe. Centres at the Lecht and Glenshee were open.

Many routes in the Highlands were closed.

Continued on page 16, col 4

Protest over shooting

By PETER VICTOR

DUBLIN last night expressed concern over the shooting at a Royal Marine checkpoint south of Armagh in which one man died and another was seriously injured. Sinn Féin called the incident another example of a shoot-to-kill policy.

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP, deplored the fact that the soldiers involved were back on patrol, and the Irish government said it would raise the matter at meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference. Lord Belstead, Northern Ireland law and order minister, prom-

ised a full and independent enquiry by the senior RUC detectives.

Fergal Caragher was shot dead and his brother Michael injured when troops fired on their car on Sunday evening. The army said their car failed to stop at a checkpoint and struck two soldiers.

The Caragher family and eye witnesses said that the brothers were allowed through one checkpoint and were fired on at a roadblock 100 yards further on.

Family's anger, page 3

Major pledges to continue policies of privatisation

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A STRONG pledge to continue the privatisation policies that were a central feature of Margaret Thatcher's government was delivered yesterday by John Major.

As Neil Kinnock fired an early shot in a Labour campaign to lay blame for the recession on the prime minister, Mr Major gave a specific promise to sell off more state industries in a new year message which otherwise contained few direct policy commitments.

With ministers boosted by the popularity of the recent sale of the electricity distribution companies, he made plain that he wants to build on the share-buying revolution of the last decade. "We must continue to extend ownership," he said.

The prime minister's remarks provide important indications that promises to sell off remaining state industries, including British Rail and British Coal, will appear in the Tory election manifesto. They will encourage Conservative MPs who have doubted whether Mr Major's enthusiasm for privatisation matches that of his predecessor.

He is believed to be particularly keen to find a way to return the railways to the private sector and is known to have been concerned towards the end of his tenure as Chancellor of the Exchequer at reports suggesting that the transport department might be growing cool to the idea. Since his appointment as transport secretary, Malcolm Rifkind has stressed that he hopes to win a manifesto slot for BR privatisation; Mr Major's message suggests that he has a key ally.

Mr Kinnock, using his new year message to prepare his party for an election in 1991, said that while some of the style of the Thatcher years had been abandoned, the substance remained. He accused Mr Major of following policies that took the economy into a rut.

Mr Major's economic record will be highlighted in a sustained campaign to begin later this month in which Labour will set out its alternatives to revive manufacturing industry. Calling for relief from high interest rates, Mr Kinnock said Labour had the policies to turn Britain into a top class economy, an approach that would be impossible from a Tory gov-

ernment of recession and run-down.

Mr Major's first new year message as prime minister made a fresh appeal for party unity.

Conservatives wanted to build a truly open society in which every man and woman would be able to go as far as their talent, ambition and effort took them, where there were no artificial barriers of background, religion or race.

Mr Major went on to promise: "We shall continue to reduce the size of the state by privatising those industries which will work better in the private sector, giving their customers and the taxpayer better value for money."

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Macmillan cabinet worried by Kuwait

By BILL FROST

HAROLD Macmillan was unsure how to handle Nikita Khrushchev, who was at his most cantankerous in 1960, and took a long time to decide to address the infamous UN general assembly in which the Russian leader heckled him, according to cabinet papers made public today.

The papers give a graphic account of the low ebb the cold war had reached in 1960 and how the Paris "summit that never was" broke up over the U2 "spy" plane incident.

Then, as now, documents reflect anxiety over Iraqi designs on Kuwait. They show that the Chiefs of Staff were asked to consider an operation to dislodge Iraqi troops should they invade the territory, then under British control.

The papers also show that the Macmillan government bowed to American pressure on the siting of Polaris submarines on the Clyde and reveal the government's anxiety in 1960 that France would seek to blame Britain for putting the Channel Tunnel project on ice. Ministers felt the promoters were seeking financial support inappropriate to a private venture.

Airline plan abandoned

British Airways has abandoned its plan to invest £34 million in a new Brussels-based businessman's airline, in co-operation with KLM and Sabena. British Airways blamed delays affecting the project, which would have linked 75 cities throughout Europe.

Games appeal



MPs and councillors in Sheffield, are to appeal to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, for at least £4 million to try to salvage the World Student Games, which are due to be held in the city in June.

Jobs setback

Treasury funding for the Employment Training scheme was cut in the autumn partly as a result of an unpublished study by the Department of Employment, which revealed that employers were reluctant to give on-the-job training to participants.

Hungary deal

A last-minute appeal by Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, has secured agreement in parliament for a 1991 budget, opening the way for a vital emergency aid package from the International Monetary Fund. Hungary has Eastern Europe's largest per capita foreign debt.

Soviet confusion

The Soviet Union faces at best the prospect of a confused switch to a market economy, at worst paralysed industries, rampant inflation and widespread unrest, as it enters 1991 with neither an economic plan nor a budget for the first time since 1928.

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Three new names join battle in the lists

By ROBIN YOUNG

JESSICA, Georgina and Samuel have a new found popularity. The names are all newcomers this year to the annual list of first names announced in the birth columns of *The Times*. Georgina has featured once before, in 1977, but the others have never made it to the top ten since the first name lists were first compiled in 1962.

None of the new trio has yet reached the longer established, and more deeply conservative, list which charts all the names given in the announcements.

The late J W Leaver of Ruislip first provided us with his name count on this basis in 1947, when the champions were John and Anne. This year births were announced for 2,991 boys and 2,856 girls. Most (1,349 and 1,639 respectively) were given two

names; 901 boys and 518 girls received three names each, while a score of each sex had four. We announced 103 pairs of twins, (31 of boys, 33 girls and two mixed), and four sets of triplets (one each of boys and girls, and one mixed).

Finally our scrutiny of the records showed that James and Elizabeth (encompassing Elisabeth) remained unassailable all-round champions in the all name lists, James for the 27th successive year and Elizabeth for the 15th. Elizabeth's popularity in a supporting role did not win her any place in the girls' top ten of first names. In 1989 she scraped in tenth. Conceivably the regal associations of the name are found inhibiting, though it is notable that in spite of the advent of Samuel (ousting Robert, who finished ninth equal last year) seven of the top ten first names for boys are

those of past rulers. John, who once ruled the boys' lists as firmly as James does today, makes a modest comeback, improving from seventh to fifth in the all names list for boys. Henry reappears here too, reclaiming a place he had in 1988 but temporarily relinquished last year.

Among the girls more people love Lucy, up from eighth to third as a first name and from ninth to sixth in the girls' all name list. Alexandra made progress too, at the expense of Alice, Emma and Olivia in the first names list and of Sophie, Emily and Victoria in the young ladies' all names chart.

Sarah, who was head girl of the first name team in 1962 and in 1981 and 1984, lost her place there last year, and this year drops out of the all name stars as well.

Still, Eugenie did not show at all.

Boys first names	Girls first names
James 180 (1)	Charlotte 64 (1)
Thomas 170 (2)	Sophie 52 (2)
Alexander 153 (4)	Lucy 75 (3)
William 123 (3)	Emily 70 (2)
Oliver 94 (7)	Alexandra 57 (7)
Charles 92 (8)	Alice 57 (5)
Edward 90 (5)	Emma 61 (4)
George 88 (6)	Jessica 60 (-)
Henry 82 (9)	Olivia 59 (6)
Samuel (-)	Georgina 55 (-)
All names	All names
James 431 (1)	Elizabeth 232 (1)
William 281 (2)	Charlotte 135 (2)
Alexander 257 (3)	Alice 126 (3)
Thomas 232 (5)	Alexandra 117 (8)
John 195 (7)	Sophie 109 (7)
Edward 191 (4)	Lucy 105 (9)
Charles 184 (6)	Emily 103 (4)
George 145 (8)	Victoria 99 (5)
David 143 (6)	Katherine 80 (-)
Harry 134 (-)	Emma 78 (8)

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# Britain was ready to defend oil-rich areas

IF ANYONE is unsure why Britain and America have committed so many forces to the Gulf, they need look no further than a top-secret directive in March 1960 from the Chiefs of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief of British forces in the Arabian peninsula.

It said that Britain had three strategic aims in the area and of these the most important was "security of the oil-producing areas in the Persian Gulf".

That interest in the area and particularly in the self-governing British protectorate of Kuwait is echoed in a letter on January 29 from Sir Richard Beaumont, head of the foreign office's Arabian department, to Sir George Middle-

ton, the political resident in the Persian Gulf, who was based in Bahrain.

He wrote that Britain's "irreducible interest" was that "Kuwait shall remain an independent state having an oil policy conducted by a government independent of other Middle East producers (or most of them) and also having a policy independent of communist or satellite influence: other interests, though most important, are subsidiary to this".

Britain was concerned in 1960 that Iraq would invade Kuwait. In the same letter Sir Richard wrote: "A corollary of this is that Kuwaiti independence will not be preserved unless any government,

By 1960 the Macmillan government had to accept that Britain could not bear the burden of great-power status. US-Soviet rivalry threatened a nuclear war. Bill Frost and Nicholas Watt report on cabinet papers showing how Britain tried to stay centre stage

which might wish to subvert or overthrow it, is convinced of Her Majesty's Government's willingness and ability to defend Kuwait by force of arms if necessary."

The Chiefs of Staff Committee showed its concern at possible Iraqi incursions in a top-secret note by their secretary on March 21, 1960. "Normal sources of intelligence will provide four days' warning of the concentration of

Iraqi forces in the Basra area and the air reconnaissance requirement is to provide warning of a subsequent move from Basra to Kuwait."

Britain was also worried about the spread of Arab nationalism from Egypt and the Cabinet papers showed that the government realised it would have to

give up some of its control over Kuwait. Selwyn Lloyd, the foreign secretary, reported to the cabinet in January that if Britain was to retain the Ruler of Kuwait's confidence the government would have to meet his wishes for accelerating the programme of loosening Britain's control.

However the papers also disclose that Britain was reluctant to do so and would grant concessions

only if approached by the Ruler. Sir Richard wrote in a confidential memo of March 24, on *Policy Towards Kuwait*, that Britain had secured the relationship with Kuwait by conceding to the Ruler on jurisdiction and by supporting his desire to join international bodies. He added that "it is satisfactory that the agreements of 1899 and 1914 on which [the relationship with Kuwait] is based are brief and rather vague".

The 1899 agreement stipulated that the Ruler of Kuwait should not receive representatives from foreign countries without Britain's sanction and that the Ruler could not "alienate" his territory without Britain's consent.

Sir Richard recognised that the

1899 agreement no longer matched the spirit of Britain's relationship with Kuwait. However, he advised against Britain proposing changes to the agreement for fear of arousing the Ruler's suspicions.

In a confidential memo on May 25, entitled *Formal Relationship with Kuwait*, Sir Richard wrote: "If (and only if) the Ruler were to raise the question, I think Sir G. (sic) Middleton (or Mr [John] Richmond) [political agent in Kuwait, now Sir John] should therefore be in a position to say immediately that he is sure HM Government would agree that the 1899 agreement no longer reflects the spirit of the British relationship with Kuwait and that they would be prepared to bring it up to date."

## Cantankerous Khrushchev unsettled West

THE government was uncertain how to tackle the obdurate Soviet Union in 1960 and had particular difficulty in deciding how to handle Nikita Khrushchev, who was at his most cantankerous that year.

Two important events showed the low ebb the cold war had reached in 1960. On September 29, Khrushchev thumped his desk and heckled Harold Macmillan, the prime minister, during his speech to the United Nations. Earlier, during his own speech on September 23, Khrushchev had called for a restructuring of the UN and had demanded the removal of Dag Hammarskjöld as secretary general.

Macmillan's papers show how ambivalent he was about addressing the 15th session of the general assembly and how much he vacillated before deciding, on September 22, to go to New York.

On September 17 he had written a despondent letter to the Queen: "Now we have fallen from the summit into a deep crevasse. I have to try to judge whether I think that I might start a new and better movement."

"If it is barely a matter of a propaganda battle with Mr Khrushchev, I am not very inclined to embark upon it." At that stage he was in favour of Lord Home, who had replaced Selwyn Lloyd as foreign secretary, speaking.

On September 4 Macmillan hinted at how concerned he was at the points the Soviet leader was capable of scoring at the UN. "For instance, if Mr Khrushchev makes a great speech full of clever but false statements, a sort of mixture between Mr Gladstone and Lloyd-George, both at their worst, a very large number of people in all

countries will believe him unless he can be shown up. The question is what is the best way of showing him up?"

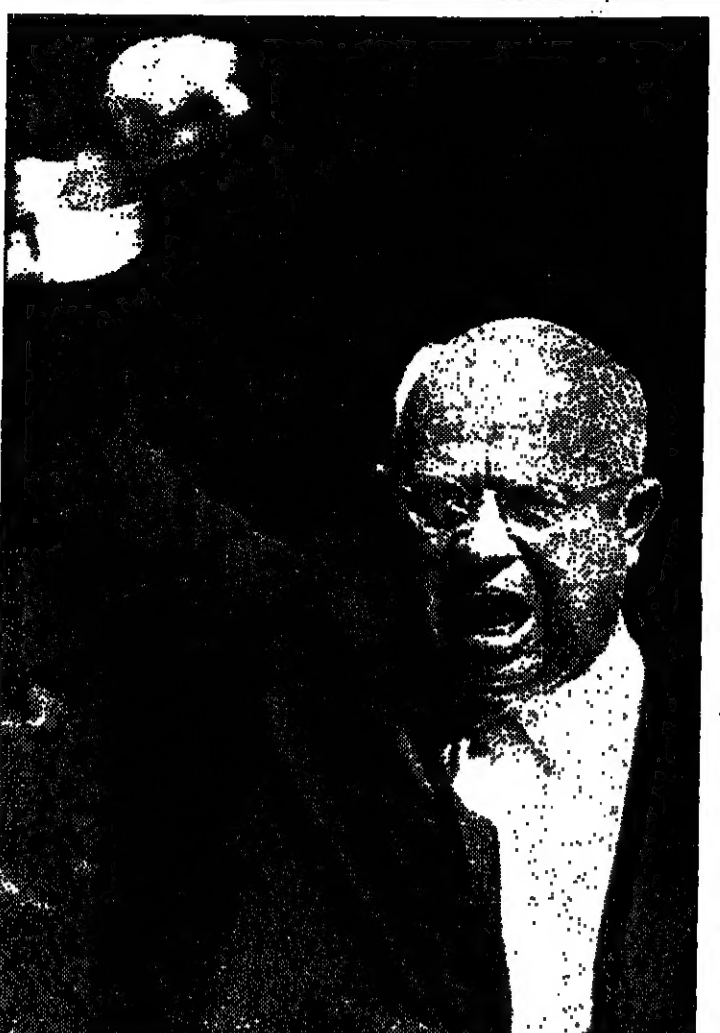
The prime minister went on to write that the impasse in the disarmament negotiations demanded a strong speech from the British at the UN.

"I believe a powerful speech would be a good thing. That is to say, to take the one point where he [Khrushchev] is weak and hammer at it all the time. Genuine inspection and genuine control — no other point matters in our disarmament plan which has so often been too complicated by detail. That is his [Khrushchev's] Achilles' heel."

The day after Macmillan decided to go to New York, Khrushchev left the British government reeling with his UN speech. In a confidential memo to the prime minister, Lord Home described the speech as "crude table-thumping, a repetitive attack on capitalism."

In a letter to the Queen on October 6 Macmillan showed his scorn for Khrushchev's suggestion that the UN secretary general should be replaced by a triumvirate that would represent the West, the Soviet bloc and the neutral countries. He wrote that "such a move would bring the United Nations to a halt."

Khrushchev's attack explained why Macmillan decided to alter the tone of his speech from that planned on September 4. In his report to cabinet he said that the US had wanted his speech to be an "aggressive reaction to the offensive speech" of Khrushchev. However



Khrushchev during his outburst at the United Nations, left, and Powers, pilot of the U-2 spy plane shot down by the Russians



ever he said that he had wanted to avoid a slanging match, which would have alienated the neutral countries, and he did not want to fall into the trap of mediating between President Eisenhower and Khrushchev.

He said: "In the end I think that my speech combined sufficient firmness with a reasonable and constructive attitude to world problems."

An interesting footnote to emerge from the prime minister's correspondence at the time of the UN fiasco is a facetious telegram sent by Mr Khrushchev from his

ship, on his way to New York, to Mr Macmillan on September 11.

It read: "Being close to British shores on my way to New York for the session of the UN general assembly I take this opportunity, to extend to you and to the entire people of Great Britain best wishes of well being and happiness. I should also like to express the hope for co-operation with the government and the people of Great Britain in the solution of the vitally important problems facing the 15th session of the general assembly."

The second important event of 1960 to show the severity of the cold war was the failure of the Paris summit in May between the leaders of the "big four" powers of the US, the USSR, Britain and France. The meeting had been built up as the great chance to improve East-West relations but fizzled out in just three days on May 17 after bitter arguments over the American U-2 "spy" plane incident.

The aircraft had been shot down by the Soviets over their airspace. Moscow said it was spying while the Americans insisted that the pilot, Francis Gary Powers, had

strayed off course. Khrushchev demanded, as his price for coming to Paris, a public apology from Eisenhower and a guarantee that there would be no more intrusions. Eisenhower rejected the demands.

The cabinet minutes of May 20 record the prime minister as saying that Khrushchev's tactics, with the impossible demands he sought from Eisenhower, had saved America's face. He said: "President Eisenhower would have been in a difficult position if Mr Khrushchev had asked only for a vague expression of regret."

his colleagues that the scheme's promoters expected a great deal of financial support and had asked for privileges "quite inappropriate to a private venture".

The cabinet economic policy committee concluded that the plan could not be accepted. Mr Marples warned ministers that "while the French might agree with our view about the financial difficulties, they might try to put the onus for rejecting the project on the United Kingdom."

"We should be careful not to disclose our view. We should simply inform the French that we would be prepared to discuss various aspects of the scheme when they were ready."

A report to the Cabinet from R A Butler, the home secretary, said there had "recently been a startling increase in the rate of immigration from the West Indies". In the first 10 months of 1960, 43,500 West Indians arrived in Britain compared with 16,400 in the whole of 1959 and 29,800 in the previous record year of 1956.

Mr Butler's report warned that "social tensions continued to exist and were a potential source of serious disturbance". It led to Cabinet discussions on a legal limit to the influx but ministers agreed no action should be taken to end Britain's traditional "open door" policy.

## Nuclear clouds on the Clyde

POLARIS

IN THE summer of 1960 the Macmillan government bowed to pressure from the US and agreed to a Polaris submarine base on the Clyde, despite advice that there would be widespread public anxiety over the establishment of a prime military target in a densely populated area.

The papers show that Macmillan and his ministers had already embarked upon a campaign of media manipulation, anticipating the outcry that would follow the arrival of Polaris.

The prime minister told his cabinet that it would be of advantage to the West as a whole and "to our partnership with the United States, if satisfactory arrangements can be made for the US Navy to have facilities for the operation of Polaris submarines in Scottish waters. It should be possible to justify the project to public opinion if it can be presented as a joint venture."

The cabinet papers show that if Polaris was a joint venture, then Britain was the junior partner. Advice from defence chiefs and others was discarded in the face of pressure from the Pentagon and the US President.

The cabinet papers show that ministers were well aware that the arrival of a new generation of US nuclear weapons might not be universally popular. Harold Watkinson, the defence minister, told the cabinet that Britain was working to a US-imposed deadline.

The American defence secretary had asked for formal agreement to be reached in time for the US



Navy to send a dry dock to Scotland by July 1960 and a Polaris submarine tender by the end of the year. Mr Watkinson said he had explained to his US counterpart that the deployment of Polaris raised important political and defence considerations in Britain.

"In order to justify this to public opinion in this country it will have to be presented as a joint project. This can be achieved if the US government were to give us an option to purchase or build our own Polaris submarines. To offset hostility we should avoid describing the facilities as an American base in Scotland. It might be found that facilities need not, at least initially, be represented as permanent."

General enthusiasm among members of the Macmillan cabinet for more liberal Sunday trading laws was tempered by the knowledge that opponents of change could "cause the government considerable political difficulty".

## No desire to fan the wind of change

THE massacre of 56 blacks by South African police at Sharpeville in 1960 did nothing to dent the determination of the Macmillan government to maintain good relations with Pretoria at almost any cost. The papers show that Britain's view was strong and flourishing economy, has a valuable part to play in the Commonwealth."

The public perception was that Harold Macmillan, then prime minister, had infuriated the South Africans with his unequivocal speech to parliament in Cape Town, in which he said: "The wind of change is blowing through this continent and, whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact."

In reality cabinet papers reveal that Macmillan had no desire to force the pace of change and thus the abandonment of apartheid. After a four-nation African tour early in February 1960 he told ministers that "it would be a tragedy if South Africa's links with the Commonwealth were weakened by reason of differences of opinion on the policy of race relations". Macmillan admitted that the main difficulties arose from the nationalist government's policy on the issue. "Though we cannot endorse that policy, we must remember it is their policy, not ours."

In March 1960 at the black township of Sharpeville in the Transvaal 56 people died and 162 were wounded when security forces opened fire on civil rights demonstrators. There was an international outcry, particularly in black and Asian Commonwealth states.

A response was expected from the Macmillan government. In the event the prime minister's hand was forced by a Labour motion on



Diplomatic dexterity and bland regret over Sharpeville killings

the Commons order paper "deploring the killing and shooting of demonstrators in South Africa".

Macmillan told his cabinet that the terms of the motion were carefully chosen and it was understood that the Speaker was unlikely to rule it out of order. The prime minister instructed the cabinet that the British government must be careful to observe the convention that one independent member of the Commonwealth should not seek to intervene in the internal affairs of another. "And it is on that account very important that we should avoid lending public support to the view that the recent disturbances in South Africa are the inevitable result of the racial policies of the Union government."

"On the other hand it must be recognised that public opinion has been deeply moved by the events and an appropriate expression of regret and sympathy for those who suffered will be expected."

The cabinet papers show that ministers discussed a form of words for the government motion which, while mollifying public opinion at home, would not upset Pretoria unduly. An attempt was also made to defer debate on the opposition motion "for a week, so events could be seen in a better perspective".

Macmillan told his cabinet that government supporters would find it difficult to vote against the Labour motion. They would find it easier to vote in favour of an amendment "which, while containing appropriate expressions of regret, reaffirmed the principle

that one independent member of the Commonwealth should not pass judgment on the internal policies of another."

The amendment suggested by Macmillan and agreed by his cabinet is a masterful example of diplomatic dexterity and bland regret over the killings: "That this House, while recognising that it has no responsibility or jurisdiction over the independent countries of the Commonwealth, at the same time wishes to record its deep sympathy with all the people of South Africa at the recent tragic events which have taken place."

Whether public opinion at home was satisfied is still open to question. Many Commonwealth states, and other nations, remained committed to punishing South Africa over Sharpeville.

The Macmillan cabinet later in the spring of 1960 was forced to consider its reaction to a United Nations resolution tabled by Ecuador, and supported by many black and Asian states, which was roundly critical of Pretoria.

Macmillan told his cabinet: "To abstain seems the best course of action, least likely to lead to an immediate crisis in Commonwealth affairs." To vote against the motion, he said, would have been to run the real risk of forcing a damaging confrontation with a number of nations which were about to attain independence and were regarded as valuable trading partners.

"It is possible, after an interval, other Commonwealth governments will realise that it is not in their best interests to interfere in the domestic jurisdiction of another."

for Roxburghshire, was asked to reveal the effects of the black-out. He wrote: "The black-out has undoubtedly led to a very considerable increase in the use of the streets as urinals."

In Angus early closing imposed on public houses and cinemas did not seem to have caused too much discontent. The government was informed: "There is little change in this respect — there never was much nightlife."

In Perth the chief constable

David Brown, chief constable

worried over an increase in drunkenness apparently caused by the national emergency.

On the night of October 28, 1959, three drunken Scots staggered out of the gloom in Cathcart Street, Rutherglen, a Glasgow suburb, and were challenged by a sentry guarding an army billet.

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## Tactical retreat as plan is rejected

CHANNEL TUNNEL

THE papers show how anxious the Macmillan government was that the French would seek to blame Britain for putting the Channel tunnel project on ice indefinitely. They also show that ministers felt that promoters of the scheme were seeking "financial support from the government ... quite inappropriate to a private venture".

Early in 1960, Ernest Marples, the transport minister, told the cabinet that his officials had concluded that, despite the serious effects on the ports of Dover, Folkestone and Newhaven, the project would be acceptable on economic grounds; that it should be privately financed; and that if it proved a commercial proposition, there might be considerable political advantage in it.

Selwyn Lloyd, the foreign secretary, told ministers that the French had made clear that, while they would not back the project financially, they were in favour of it. British support would be consistent with "our general policy of co-operation with Europe", Mr Lloyd said.

By the summer, though, the cabinet's flirtation with the project was all but over. Mr Marples told

his colleagues that the scheme's promoters expected a great deal of financial support and had asked for privileges "quite inappropriate to a private venture".

The cabinet economic policy committee concluded that the plan could not be accepted. Mr Marples warned ministers that "while the French might agree with our view about the financial difficulties, they might try to put the onus for rejecting the project on the United Kingdom."

"We should be careful not to disclose our view. We should simply inform the French that we would be prepared to discuss various aspects of the scheme when they were ready."

A report to the Cabinet from R A Butler, the home secretary, said there had "recently been a startling increase in the rate of immigration from the West Indies". In the first 10 months of 1960, 43,500 West Indians arrived in Britain compared with 16,400 in the whole of 1959 and 29,800 in the previous record year of 1956.

Mr Butler's report warned that "social tensions continued to exist and were a potential source of serious disturbance". It led to Cabinet discussions on a legal limit to the influx but ministers agreed no action should be taken to end Britain's traditional "open door" policy.

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## Dark secrets of civilian wrongdoings in 1940 finally exposed

By KERRY GILL

SOME of the most closely guarded secrets about civilian behaviour in the early months of the second world war have been released today. The government has decided that only now is it safe to publish high-level police reports that should have been kept secret until 2014.

Every two weeks chief constables had to compile reports for the wartime government on civilian conduct when Britain stood

almost alone against the forces of Nazism and fascism.

In Scotland the most senior police officers spent their time solemnly recording rather mundane outbreaks of civil disobedience. It has emerged, for example, that by June 1940 Aberdeen police were searching for the person who started a rumour that the chief constable had been arrested on suspicion of being a fascist sympathiser.

David Brown, chief constable

for Roxburghshire, was asked to reveal the effects of the black-out. He wrote: "The black-out has undoubtedly led to a very considerable increase in the use of the streets as urinals."

In Angus early closing imposed on public houses and cinemas did not seem to have caused too much discontent. The government was informed: "There is little change in this respect — there never was much nightlife."

In Perth the chief constable

worried over an increase in drunkenness apparently caused by the national emergency.

On the night of October 28, 1959, three drunken Scots staggered out of the gloom in Cathcart Street, Rutherglen, a Glasgow suburb, and were challenged by a sentry guarding an army billet.

"Two intoxicated men, namely John Queen and Francis Dunn, were commanded to halt. It would appear that they resented this," the chief constable for

Lanarkshire wrote in his report. Mr Queen and Mr Dunn were obviously more than a match for the soldier. Reading between the lines they must have thumped the private before taking his rifle.

After support troops disgorged from the billet, Mr Francis was grabbed 200 yards down the street as the third drunk, Francis Connelly, "molested" the soldiers. Police were called and Mr Queen was caught. All three were charged and bound for trial before

a sheriff and jury. Only soldiers were wounded; one suffered a slight head injury and another a sore finger. The rifle was recovered.

Sir Percy Sillitoe, Glasgow's chief constable, was worried about the new role for his men. He said that if police were known to be making inquiries for reports on civilian morale and behaviour, people might accuse the government of establishing a secret police organisation.

Dublin govt concerned checkpoint

Che

Polluters face



هكذا من الأصل







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# Companies give employment scheme the cold shoulder

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are reluctant to give on-the-job training to participants in the employment training scheme, an unpublished study by the government shows.

The results of the internal employment department study of how employment training (ET) is working were examined by the Treasury in the autumn round of public spending negotiations, and were among the reasons for cutting the scheme's budget.

Of the government's total training budget of £2.5 billion in 1990-1, spending on ET is about £1.2 billion but that is likely to be cut by more than £350 million by the 1991-2 financial year.

Partly because of the report, Treasury officials believe that ET, which is aimed at the long-term

unemployed, is less successful in placing people in jobs than many of the measures operated at lower cost by the department's employment service.

Labour party leaders have been pressing the government to disclose in full the findings of the report into ET's first 18 months. The study, *ET Evaluation: Summary of Findings from the First 18 Months*, shows that less than 30 per cent of ET trainees at the time of the survey were in training placements with employers. Of those who were, most were with small private-sector companies employing fewer than 25 workers.

Labour believes that the figures show that trainees on ET, like those on schemes before it such as the youth training scheme (YTS), are used by small companies as cheap labour.

The survey also discloses that employers saw the young people on YTS as most deserving of help while the long-term unemployed on ET were the least deserving. Because many YTS trainees are young and enthusiastic, many managers of government training programmes favoured them, seeing them as a "clean slate" compared to ET trainees, and consequently easier to match with employers. Similarly, the report says that training managers believed employers thought that young people on YTS were "more malleable" and "less likely to complain than adult trainees."

The report notes that some employers were attracted by the ET scheme simply because it required from them only a limited commitment to a period of training. Labour says this means that some employers simply discard ET trainees after a period for the next batch, so effectively avoiding any real training obligations.

Employment or full-time training was achieved by half of those completing the scheme and by 44 per cent of those leaving it early. Only 40 per cent of those leaving said ET had helped them to find work, although two-thirds felt it had improved their confidence and their skills, and more than three-quarters felt it had helped them to get on with other people.

## Staff testing standards to be raised

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A QUALITY assurance scheme for occupational testing, which is widely used in Britain for screening staff, is being launched today by the British Psychological Society.

Nearly three quarters of companies in Britain use occupational tests for recruiting and assessing staff. Critics say that some of the tests are poor predictors of performance and that many of those using them do not understand the tests' limitations.

The scheme aims to protect the public by providing a statement of competence in occupational testing, available from today, and a higher-level certificate of competence, from July 1. The certificate will be issued only to applicants who can demonstrate to a chartered psychologist that they are competent. The statement will be available immediately to those who have completed an approved training course or who are registered with one of the main test publishers.



On the seventh day of Christmas... many shoppers stayed at home and stores admitted that they did not expect to sell as much, in volume terms, as last year. By mid-morning the perfume department of this Oxford Street store was still waiting for the rush. In general, shopkeepers reported a steady flow of customers and some stores in Manchester, Sheffield, Cardiff and Bristol said they expected yesterday's takings to be a record in money terms. Liberty, in Regent Street, London, expects crowds today when it halves some sale prices

## Easing the way to small claims court

WHEN Christine Wheeler was involved in a crash that caused £2,000 damage to her vehicle and faced her with the cost of a hired car, she decided to go the small claims court to recoup her outstanding losses.

The AA, to which she belongs, had failed to win back hire-car costs from the driver of the other vehicle. That, together with the first £50 she had to pay before claiming on her insurance, set her back about £300. But, like many before her, Miss Wheeler found that pursuing a small claim is not as easy or straightforward as it is intended to be.

"I regard myself as quite an articulate person," she said. "But when I arrived for the first hearing I was petrified. I had never even set foot inside a courtroom before."

The small claims court was set up 17 years ago as a system of simple, cheap "do it yourself" justice where people do not need a lawyer — a kind of "people's court". In some respects it has been a success. Each year, more people resort to the small claims court to pursue an action: last

The small claims court, set up as a system of cheap "do it yourself" justice so that claims can be pursued without lawyers, is taking on a bigger role, reports Frances Gibb

year the total was nearly 50,000, about 6,000 more than in 1984. Yet, according to the users of the system, it falls short of being a simple and easy system of justice that is accessible to the ordinary person.

There are complaints that the booklet on pursuing a small claim is complex; that there is a lack of information from the court on what steps to take; of delays in pursuing the claim and of varying attitudes among the registrars who adjudicate the disputes, with some being formal and unhelpful, others interventionist and friendly.

Miss Wheeler's case starkly highlights some of the difficulties.

Although successful in pursuing her claim, she relied largely on the help of the solicitor at the company where she works as a personal assistant. "He really told me everything I needed to do. He told me to get my evidence together. He made me get photographs of the scene of the accident, and the damage, and put the whole case together for me."

When it came going to court, Miss Wheeler had a preliminary hearing to fix the date. "Never having been in a court in my life, I was very glad of that dress rehearsal." However, when it came to the day of the actual hearing, or arbitration, she took the solicitor along and he cross-examined the defendants and witnesses for her. "I suppose I could have done it on my own but it would have been very daunting. It felt much more secure."

She says that because the emphasis is on informality, it is easy for people to be lulled into forgetting that the registrar is making a decision on the evidence before him. "It's not just a cosy chat round the table."

Another key factor is the need for

good witnesses. Miss Wheeler subpoenaed hers after learning "quite by chance" from a court official that she could do so.

Her case, and her need for reliance on professional help, demonstrates some of the failings of the court. In particular, she says that the information on how to pursue a claim should be sent out automatically when someone first approaches the court. She only obtained her booklet half-way through the case.

Miss Wheeler says that it should be made clear to people that they must put down the whole of their claim, including all incidental expenses if they are known, from the start. "I didn't know you could claim interest so I lost that."

She says that the court could provide plaintiffs or defendants with a checklist of what they need to know. "The court is entirely reactive; it only does what you ask it to do, although of course it cannot — and should not — help you put your case together."

Tomorrow: How the reformed system will work

## Beer limit dispute brings new delay

Disagreement on how much beer Irishmen should be able to carry home has postponed the introduction of customs regulations on the Irish border (Robin Young writes).

Four years ago, to discourage bulk buying in Northern Ireland where prices are lower, the Irish government ruled that only those who had been away more than 48 hours could bring goods home and imposed a 12-litre limit per person on beer imports.

The British government had this overturned by the European Court for being restrictive. Dublin then proposed to cut the time limit to 24 hours and said the restriction would be raised to 25l from today.

## Meningitis death

A boy aged 3 from Scholar Green, Cheshire, has died from meningitis. He is the third child in a fortnight to die from the disease within a 20-mile radius but Crewe health authority said the case was not connected with the others in Crewe and Northwich.

## Inmates accused

Three prisoners were remanded in custody yesterday accused of unlawfully killing Anthony Whitaker, aged 52, a remand prisoner from south London, in Canterbury prison.

## Wife returns

Jennifer Howe, aged 45, an army sergeant's wife missing from home for three days, returned safely to her married quarters at the army base on Thorney Island, West Sussex, yesterday. Police said she had left for domestic reasons.

## Son charged

Brian Thirlwell, aged 26, was remanded in custody by Gateshead magistrates yesterday charged with battering to death his father George, aged 64, and mother Kitty, aged 59, with whom he lived.

## College fire

Staff escaped after fire extensively damaged the kitchens of Radley College, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, yesterday. The school will reopen as planned on January 6.

## Costume piece

A replica of the dress worn by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at her wedding in 1923 is estimated to make £1,200-£1,800 in costume and textiles sale at Sotheby's London on January 23.

## THE EC PRESIDENCY

# Luxembourg, the mouse that must roar

From MICHAEL BRYNION IN BRUSSELS

THE smallest member of the European Community, Luxembourg today takes over the EC presidency from Italy, and with it the responsibility for piloting the Twelve through the two inter-governmental conferences on political and monetary union, as well as the approaching confrontation in the Gulf.

The task will strain the resources of the Grand Duchy to the limit. With a population of only 380,000, a handful of diplomats around the world and a small civil service, Luxembourg will have to devote itself to leading a Community almost a thousand times its own size at a time of unparalleled strain.

"The international environment... has rarely been so full of problems and uncertainty," Jacques Poos, the foreign minister, said recently.

Luxembourg's priority for the next six months will be to ensure rapid progress towards agreement on changes in the Treaty of Rome to bring about closer political co-operation and economic and monetary union. The country will preside over the weekly negotiating sessions of experts and the monthly meetings of the EC's foreign and finance ministers.

Community leaders set themselves a rapid timetable in Rome in December, aimed at concluding negotiations in just over six months. But fundamental differences which have only begun to surface will slow progress. Britain's strong opposition to the final

aim of a single European currency may lead to renewed confrontation with its partners during the talks on monetary union. The Franco-German alliance may begin to unravel over differing views on political union. The Luxembourgers will need all the tact, patience and firmness of purpose to prevent both conferences becoming bogged down in disagreement and recriminations.

Luckily, the country can point to precedents to reassure doubters that it is up to the task. Luxembourg took over negotiations on the Single European Act at a critical stage from Italy in 1985,

and ensured its passage despite earlier British resistance. Two decades earlier, the "Luxembourg compromise" was evolved, giving member states room for manoeuvre over issues of vital national importance and ending a six-month French boycott of the Community.

Luxembourg's small size makes it a natural consensus-seeker, although not a natural leader. Gaston Thorn, a former prime minister who was Jacques Delors's predecessor as president of the European Commission, was one of the least successful leaders of the Community.

However, the Grand Duchy,

one of the original Six, has a strong commitment to the integration of Europe. The population speaks French and German as well as the Letzeburgish dialect. Its economy and identity are closely linked to the Community: it houses the European Court of Justice, the European Investment Bank, the Court of Auditors, the secretariat of the European Parliament, most of the EC publications offices and for three months each year it is the site of Council meetings by EC ministers.

However, this involvement makes it difficult for Luxembourg to carry out two other tasks on the agenda: completing the internal market and deciding the test of the European Parliament and several new EC agencies.

Luxembourg has a keen interest in keeping the EC agencies that contribute so much to its economy and prestige. It will be hard therefore to face down the French, threatening to veto any new package of seats until Strasbourg is confirmed as the venue for the European Parliament. Luxembourg will have to mediate between France and Belgium, which wants the Parliament in Brussels, while preserving its own claim, and trying also to land the big catch for itself: the headquarters of the proposed Eurofed.

The internal market has now reached a stage which also threatens Luxembourg's interests: banking secrecy and a possible harmonisation of value added tax and

the phasing out of excise duty differences all threaten the prosperity of a country that has exploited EC loopholes to become rich. Similarly, proposals on the agenda of the Intergovernmental Conference on political union, such as full voting rights for immigrants, a stronger role for the European Parliament and more majority voting are seen as a threat to a country that has a foreign population of 28 per cent.

The government of Jacques Santer, a Christian Democrat, must also pull the Community back to negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Luxembourg will need to persuade France and Germany to make much bigger concessions on agriculture.

It will also preside over the final negotiations to integrate the seven members of the European Free Trade Association with the EC in the proposed European Economic Area, a new 19-nation common market.

All plans and timetables would be thrown into disarray by war in the Gulf. "If there were to be a war, the top priority for our presidency would be obvious," Mr Poos said.

"Even if the war were short... its consequences would be considerable. Current economic difficulties would get much worse and the Community would have to face up to that."

No country has had to lead the EC into a war before. It would be a hard task for little Luxembourg.



Taking the strain: Poos must help steer the Community through enormous 'problems and uncertainty'

## French pessimism grows over rule by 'Sun King'

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS FRANÇOIS Mitterrand approaches the end of his tenth year in the Elysée Palace, a pervasive sense of dissatisfaction with his presidency is spreading among the French. The most superficial reflection of this malaise may be found in the opinion polls, where his popularity is at its lowest ebb since 1986, but the true measure of what most troubles France after a decade of Mitterrandism is less easily defined.

There is certainly widespread pessimism about the effect that almost five more years of President Mitterrand could have upon the country as a whole. Chattering in bread shops and corner bars all over France, ordinary people of every political persuasion or

none grumble about his "Sun King" complex and dismaying inability to acknowledge their everyday worries and fears.

At a time when the traditional pillars of society appear to many to be under threat, with judges and civil servants protesting in the streets, high schools in turmoil and the urban slums simmering, an aloof and remote figure in the Elysée could hardly be more damaging for the presidency. To make matters worse, a recently published government report concluded that the cherished "historic role" of France in world affairs, so crucial to Gaullist self-esteem, is not what it used to be after the extraordinary events of the past two years.

In fairness, such misgivings normally overlap with a profound contempt for the entire

classe politique: poll after poll records the public's rooted conviction that most of their elected representatives are corrupt and self-serving (one survey found them little more respected than prostitutes). As one grubby political scandal follows another, the scathing judgement of the country inevitably rubs off on the Elysée Palace.

All this helps explain why the first murmurs about the need for a drastic revision of the Fifth Republic are now being heard in political circles: briefly stated, Mitterrand's powers are held to be too great and his seven-year term of office too long. What France in the 1990s needs, goes the argument, is far greater parliamentary control over the presidency, ideally wielded by a prime minister who can bite back

when necessary. Mitterrand may once have denounced the powers bestowed by the present Gaullist constitution as amounting to "a permanent coup d'état", but that was before he arrived at the Elysée. The best hope he holds out today is to consider changing the presidency to a five-year term, always provided that parliament and government agree.

It goes without saying that Mitterrand's iron grip on government owes much to the chronic inability of France's mainstream conservatives to get their act together. On the evidence of their performance in opposition, neither Jacques Chirac nor Valéry Giscard d'Estaing can be rated as serious challengers: not that this has stopped them from gobbling up younger contenders on the

right. For all the Socialists' periodic feuds, the sinuous political skills of Mitterrand have been enough to preserve his authority within the party.

According to insiders, he has no intention of allowing his prime minister, Michel Rocard, to slip into pole position as a potential successor: some do not expect the increasingly hard-pressed M Rocard to survive another summer.

On the other hand, for his powers, Mitterrand still cannot fust his own favourite, the little loved president of the National Assembly, Laurent Fabius, on to the party faithful. As right-winger Michel Noir observed acridly the other day, it looks as if France will be "switched to the answering service for another five years".

## Tusa ready to turn dream of 24-hour TV news into reality

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Ted Turner, the tenacious American entrepreneur, risked his entire \$100 million (£52 million) fortune on the launch of the world's first 24-hour television news service, just about everyone — from media pundits and the three US networks to most bankers and politicians — was convinced he was crazy even to contemplate it.

Ten years later Cable News Network (CNN) is watched by more than 50 million people around the world. And the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which last August propelled CNN to centre stage as public and policymakers alike turned in for the latest in the war of words between President Bush and President Saddam Hussein, has concentrated the minds of those at the BBC whose dreams of a global television network have been frustrated by the Foreign Office's continuing refusal to fund an expansion by the World Service from radio into television.

Now, with private sector loan finance and £2 million revenue raised by BBC Enterprises from programme sales abroad, the World Service's managing director, John Tusa, is ready to turn his dream into reality.

The planned launch of World Service Television News this spring looks modest compared with CNN. On an initial budget of £6 million, the BBC is to start with half-hour daily world news bulletins, working slowly but surely towards its 24-hour-a-day goal.

Mr Tusa said: "It's impossible to predict how fast we can expand. It took 35 years for the World Service to create a 24-hour English network, but I don't think it will take us that long this time. What I don't understand is why people outside the BBC have not seen its potential as clearly as me. The UK could influence the whole world information scene by committing itself to a TV news channel. It's such a huge prize."

The World Service, which boasts the biggest audience in the world, with 120 million people listening tuning in daily to its trusted bulletins and analyses of world affairs in both English and 36 other languages, is well-placed to give both CNN and the 24-hour Sky News a run for their money, although Mr Tusa is adamant that the BBC will not compete on their terms.

Reaching an initial seven million people as part of a repackaged BBC TV Europe, which now

broadcasts 18 hours a day of BBC1 and BBC2 output via satellite and cable throughout the European continent, World Service Television News (WSTN) will direct itself to a well-educated and influential 'AB' audience in 22 countries.

While CNN, on slow news days, can bore UK and European viewers with the kind of "cat stuck up a tree in Martinsville, Indiana" stories, WSTN will concentrate on news from all the countries it reaches. "The World Service has been criticised for being so world-centred that it misses some domestic UK stories. That's true, but if it is to be credible, and effective to a global audience, it must bend over backwards to avoid giving Britain any more attention than the other countries it services," Mr Tusa said.

He is determined that the BBC service will not become a platform for political propaganda in the way many pundits believe the American network has allowed itself to be used during the Gulf confrontation. The same rigorous tests for accuracy and impartiality will be applied as they are to World Service radio broadcasts, focusing on analysis, and the placing of events in context. But it is doubtful that a 24-hour BBC global television news network would turn down an impromptu interview with President Saddam, a quick response from President Bush, another from President Saddam and so on, while inevitably engaged in a highly competitive ratings battle with CNN itself, Sky and, eventually, ITN.



Tusa: impossible to predict pace of expansion



# Bush dilemma over asking Congress to approve war

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, WASHINGTON

AFTER a two-month break a new Congress convenes this week, putting President Bush right on the spot as the United Nations January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait draws near. Though he has secured global authorisation for going to war in the Gulf, he has yet to secure the backing of the Democrat-controlled Congress, and there is no guarantee he can.

House and Senate leaders are adamant that Mr Bush must, under the constitution, obtain congressional approval before he commits US troops to war. Richard Gephardt, the Democratic House leader, warned at the weekend that if he failed to do so Congress would "reach for the only tool left to it, which is to cut off funding for the war".

The White House knows that Mr Gephardt is almost certainly a hollow threat, that Congress would not dare pull the rug from beneath its forces once battle had been joined. But while it denies that the President has a constitutional obligation to seek congressional approval, it also knows that to go to war without having done so would be extremely risky.

If the war went awry, if it did not prove the quick, decisive and relatively bloodless affair Mr Bush has predicted, he would have no political cover. His presidency would be undermined as surely as that of the last president who sought to wage a protracted, bloody war with his country divided, Lyndon Johnson in Vietnam.

Mr Bush's dilemma is that to seek congressional approval is as risky as not seeking it. A divisive debate would weaken President Saddam Hussein, whose refusal to

believe that the US will take military action is said to be based in large part on the lack of consensus in America, and there is a strong possibility that Congress would either refuse authorisation or hamstring the administration with, for example, a requirement that every non-military means of securing an Iraqi withdrawal be tried and exhausted before resorting to force.

The almost total support from Congress that Mr Bush enjoyed early on, evaporated on November 8 when he ordered a near-doubling of US troops in the region and turned them from a defensive to offensive force. Democrats rallied behind the argument that sanctions should be given time to work. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, Mr Gephardt and George Mitchell, the Senate leader, have all adopted that argument, and 110 rank-and-file House Democrats reiterated it in a letter to Mr Bush last week.

In a television interview even Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican minority leader, cautioned that the American people "are not yet committed to war" and Mr Bush should try again to arrange direct talks with Baghdad, while Senator Mitchell has warned that Congress will not approve the sort of UN-style resolution, giving the administration the "blank cheque" authorisation which it wants.

The White House has twice before considered sending resolutions to Congress, but was both times deterred by advice that the ensuing debate would send entirely the wrong signal to Iraq. Mr Bush needs congressional leaders on Thursday.

At present Mr Bush's advisers are divided. Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, is said to be wary that Congress might inhibit the administration's freedom of manoeuvre. John Sununu, the White House chief of staff, is apparently "unsure", and James Baker, the Secretary of State, "a little more confident" that Congress would co-operate.

If Mr Bush is in a dilemma, so are most congressmen, and beyond agreeing that they should do something so that their institution is not sidelined, their leaders cannot decide on initiating a debate themselves. "If we didn't say anything, if we didn't raise a question, if we had no debate so as to help the president with this threat, and then he had to carry out the threat and the US was at war, every journalist in the country and many Americans would say 'Where were you?', conceded Senator Mitchell.

Like all politicians, the congressmen want to hedge their bets so that they can say they had supported military action if it turns out well and that they had urged restraint if it goes badly.

Leading article, page 9



Destination Gulf: a helicopter hovering above the aircraft carrier USS Ranger at Subic Bay naval base yesterday. The ship, together with 12 other warships of an American amphibious task force, is spending the new year at the Philippine base before sailing for the Gulf

## Tehran attacks American role of 'gendarme' in the Gulf

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAN, which has undertaken to stay out of any hostilities in the Gulf, yesterday launched a blistering attack on Washington and threatened to "break the legs" of Americans and their allies if they tried to establish a permanent presence in the region.

In defiant mood, Iraq said it was ready for war, ordered all men aged 17 to report for military duty and claimed it would inflict "terrible and total" defeat on President Bush.

Jordan's King Hussein, suffering from jitters as Iraq and Israel exchange threats over his head,

announced he would travel to London and other European capitals this week for talks on the confrontation.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, accusing the United States of "acts of hooliganism, banditry and piracy", told a meeting of Revolutionary Guard commanders that "the Americans must know that the Islamic countries and world nations are disgusted with and deplore their presence in the Persian Gulf".

In sharp contrast to the ayatollah's warning, Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister,

said Tehran would remain neutral if war broke out. "We do not want to enter this predicament, since we do not consider either side and its conduct to be righteous," he told students at Tehran University.

Ayatollah Khamenei's outburst emphasised Iranian fears that a long-term American presence, or a pro-Western government replacing President Saddam Hussein, could undermine Iran's ambition to be the region's dominant force.

The ayatollah warned the rulers of the Gulf Arab states which had first sought United States protection not to give the Americans a permanent role in the region. If they did so they would be overthrown by their subjects. "All Americans and their allies must know that the nations of the region will break the legs of each single aggressor. They will not allow the US to come here and take up the role of gendarme under the pretext of maintaining security or a specific region," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Iran has so far benefited from the confrontation in the Gulf, with windfall oil revenues and a dramatic peace settlement with Iraq. Also, by enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq, President Rafsanjani has eased the way to improved relations with the West.

Breakthrough expected: The Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has been acting as an unofficial mediator on behalf of Baghdad, said yesterday that it expected a breakthrough in efforts to avert war in the Gulf before the UN deadline. A spokesman added that the PLO had recently received Saudi assurances that King Fahd wanted a political solution to the confrontation.

## Arab killed 'by her own bomb'

By RICHARD OWEN

A PALESTINIAN woman died yesterday in a women's lavatory in the Jewish market in Jerusalem when a bomb she was carrying detonated. "It seems she was preparing a bomb to kill Jews, and it went off," an Israeli policeman said.

Nearby, as stallholders looked on behind mounds of fruit and vegetables, right-wing Jewish militants from the Kach organisation danced, sang and shouted: "Death to Arabs."

The woman, aged 24, was reportedly pregnant and lived at a Palestinian refugee camp near Bethlehem on the West Bank. Yaakov Turner, the police commissioner, said the abortive bomb attack was related to today's anniversary of the emergence of Fatah, the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation group as a fighting force in 1965.

Meir Cohen, a shopkeeper who entered the toilets after the blast, said the woman had still been alive when he found her. "I picked up her head," he said. "She made a movement as if she wanted to speak. But suddenly I saw she had an Arab face and had something in her hand. I went out and fetched the border police and told them: 'Don't go in, it's another Arab'."

In the 1960s and 1970s, the PLO had well-trained fighting units, one Israeli defence expert said. "Now we get these amateurish attempts." PLO policy in the past two years has been that while armed attacks on Israeli's borders and against military targets are justified, the Palestinian uprising should be confined to mass protest and the use of stones.

There has been a series of stabbings and bombings against Israeli Jews since the Temple Mount riots in October in which 18 Arabs died, but most of the attacks appear to have been individual acts. Fifty Arabs who were in the vicinity of the Jewish market at the time of yesterday's explosion were detained, and arrests were made at the Bethlehem refugee camp.

Extensive curfews were also imposed throughout the Gaza Strip to prevent "Fatah Day" disturbances, following riots in Gaza at the weekend which left five Arabs dead.

In an attempt to demonstrate its pre-eminence in the occupied territories despite the growing influence of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organisation - Fatah has orchestrated demonstrations in the past few days, leading the Israeli army to draft in reinforcements.

Curfews were yesterday extended to West Bank towns, and Palestinian schools were closed for two weeks.

## Sri Lanka wary over rebel ceasefire

Colombo - THE Sri Lankan government has reacted cautiously to a Tamil Tiger pledge to cease fighting from midnight last night. (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The government says it needs at least three days to assess the declaration by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam that they would "effect a cessation of hostilities... unilaterally".

The Tigers said they had decided to cease fighting as a gesture of goodwill and to promote peace. But they added that they would defend themselves if the Government continued to fight.

They said the decision placed responsibility for maintaining peace or continuing war with the Sri Lankan government. The Tigers also said they would be prepared to enter peace talks if the ceasefire was observed by both sides.

Observers believe the three-day period mentioned by the government is because President Premadasa is due to address the nation at a rally in Kandy tomorrow, when he completes two years in office.

But the military is not in favour of a ceasefire, according to security sources. It believes the Tigers have been under pressure and want a respite to regroup.

The ceasefire move also comes as the Tamil Nadu government in southern India has begun a crackdown on the guerrillas, amid criticism from Delhi that the Tamil militants are operating freely in the state.

## Anti-junta protest

Athens - Hundreds of those arrested, tortured or exiled during the seven-year Greek military dictatorship demonstrated in Athens and Thessaloniki against a government plan, since cancelled, to pardon the last-imprisoned junta leaders. The Athens rally, led by Melina Mercouri, the actress and politician, was staged outside Korydallos prison where eight of the 13 coup leaders and their close associates have been held for the past 16 years.

## Scholar dismissed

Jerusalem - Israel's antiquities authority has dismissed on health grounds John Strugnell, the Harvard university scholar who headed a project to decipher the Dead Sea scrolls. Professor Strugnell told the Israeli daily Haaretz last month: "What bothers me about Judaism is the very existence of Jews." The Jerusalem Report labelled him "the Jew-hater who controls the scrolls." He told the magazine: "I am an anti-Zionist." (Reuters)

## Winter strikes

Jammu - At least 30 people have died over the past three days as snow, rain and cold swept across north India. Officials said eight people died when their house collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir, adding to the Himalayan state's grim weekend toll in heavy snowfalls and landslides. The officials said more than 2,000 vehicles were trapped by the snow and landslides on the single road linking the Kashmir valley to the rest of India. (Reuters)

## Rickshaw dispute

Jakarta - Six bicycle-rickshaw operators are suing the city government over a ban on rickshaws, which they say contravenes their right to make a living. The six owner-drivers claim that the city's bid to clear the streets of rickshaws has cost them \$120,000 in lost earnings. A year ago, security forces began seizing the vehicles late at night and dumping them in Jakarta Bay, where it was hoped they would form artificial reefs. (Reuters)

## Disaster alert

Melbourne - Queensland's central coast has been declared a disaster area as rain and flooding in the wake of Cyclone Joy cut off towns and rural outstations. A week of unrelenting storms has left an area of the size of England engulfed from Rockhampton in the south to the northern resort of Townsville 400 miles to the north.

## Rebels say Barre about to flee

By ANDREW LYCETT

A LEADING rebel group yesterday claimed that Somalia's beleaguered President Siad Barre was on the point of fleeing his country, following fierce fighting in the capital, Mogadishu, over the weekend.

President Barre's flight into exile was expected within 24 hours, a spokesman for the United Somali Congress (USC), said in Rome yesterday. "We now control 90 per cent of Mogadishu," he added.

But in a radio speech yesterday monitored by the Italian embassy in Mogadishu, the president said that many people had been killed in Mogadishu when army units were called out to repel an attack on the capital. He blamed the attack on "bandits" and said he had asked the army to return to barracks and hand over to the police. He apparently made no reference to who had the upper hand in the fighting.

The USC is one of the three main rebel groups which have been fighting to overthrow President Barre, who took power in a military coup in 1969. The others are the Somali National Movement and the Somali Patriotic Movement.

Like the president's regime, all three rebel movements are largely tribal organisations. After sporadic fighting, particularly in the north, throughout the 1980s, pressure on President Barre's regime intensified last summer when all three rebel groups agreed on military and political co-operation. Most of the subsequent clashes have taken place in the central region, around the capital.

The deteriorating situation forced President Barre to sack his hardline son, Brigadier Maslah Said Barre, as army commander in November and replace him with his son-in-law, Brigadier-General Said Hirsi Morgan.

But this conciliatory move, which reflected divisions within the president's supporters, failed to stop lawlessness in the capital. Mogadishu took on the appearance of a Wild West town, with shootings and kidnappings. Between 300 and 400 people are reported to have been killed there since the end of November.

In the past month President Barre pulled out the steps to reach some form of compromise. He courted American public opinion, which had been critical of his repressive regime, by supporting the anti-Iraq stand in the Gulf. He pushed for talks with the rebels. But when he offered to liberalise his one-party rule, only one small group took up his offer to constitute itself as a democratic party.

The latest fighting started on Boxing day, when eight policemen were killed by unknown assailants in Karan, a district of Mogadishu. Five hundred people were arrested as a result. Increased shelling and automatic rifle fire were reported as the USC and the army battled for control of the city.

## Tokyo offers Baghdad aid if it pulls out of Kuwait

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

TOSHIKI Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, has offered economic aid to President Saddam Hussein if the Iraqi leader opts for a peaceful end to the Gulf confrontation.

Mr Kaifu said in a pre-recorded new year's message due to be broadcast today: "I hope that Iraq will make a decision for a peaceful solution. If it does, then Japan is prepared to provide aid for economic reconstruction."

Japan was Baghdad's big-gest donor of aid, but after the invasion of Kuwait Tokyo froze 400 billion yen (£1.6 billion) in economic assistance, and suspended all financial transactions with Iraq.

But Mr Kaifu's latest initiative seems unlikely to persuade the rest of the world that Japan is about to

start setting its own international agenda or that it will begin to live up to its pledge to act more like the superpower it says it would like to be.

At the Houston summit last summer, Mr Kaifu seemed to be taking the first steps along a more independent path, when he broke ranks with Japan's allies by refusing aid to Moscow and by resuming relations with Peking. But after Houston came the Gulf confrontation, and once again Japan seemed to revert to a reactive role. Japan's recent failure to pass a bill that would have allowed it to send a token force of non-combat troops to the Gulf has underlined its inability to act decisively or quickly in times of crisis, particularly in unfamiliar areas.

## Troops told patience leads to appeasement



Meeting the troops: Vice-President Dan Quayle greeting marines at a Saudi base yesterday

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

DAN Quayle, the American vice-president, yesterday told forces stationed near the Kuwaiti border that they and President Bush had been "patient enough" in waiting for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"The fact is that a policy of indefinite patience only could lead to a policy of appeasement," he told a gathering of marines, and this would make Iraq's President Saddam Hussein the victor in the Gulf confrontation.

Mr Quayle, on a morale-building mission, visited the Third Marine Aircraft Wing, the closest aircraft group to the border of occupied Kuwait. His tour, by helicopter and military lorry, also took him to a US Army regiment 40 miles from Kuwait, closer to the border than any other American forces.

## Gas masks and champagne for an Armageddon party

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MEGGIDO, ISRAEL

From the hilltop archaeological site at Meggido, a few miles inland from Haifa, a great plain stretches as far as the eye can see. This, according to the Bible, is Armageddon (from the Hebrew *Har Meggido*, or Meggido mountain), the scene of the final cosmic battle to come, the war between the Sons of Darkness and the Sons of Light.

In the past few days, some Israelis have begun to half-joke that Armageddon may come on or around January 15, if President Saddam Hussein, refusing to withdraw from Kuwait, launches a diversionary missile attack on Israel before the American-led allied forces in the Gulf

can attack him. "Book your grandstand seat now," said an American visitor at Meggido, walking round the 6,000-year-old remains of ruined cities and temples on the hill. In Jerusalem, members of the foreign community have caught the macabre mood. They are planning an "Armageddon party" on January 14, with gas masks and champagne.

The Israeli authorities, anxious to prepare the public for a possible war while at the same time preserving calm, have veered between reassurance and predictions of imminent conflict.

Israeli press reports have been similarly contradictory. One day reports say that Israel is certain to be attacked and will have to rely on its own defences without

counting on the United States. The next day, reports emphasise that President Saddam would be committing suicide if he dared to strike at Tel Aviv, given the overwhelming military strength of the Israelis (including their nuclear option), and that in any case Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, has been given guarantees of American military aid by President Bush.

There are other inconsistencies. Iraqi missiles can be fitted with chemical warheads and launched without warning; or, alternatively, Iraq does not have the technology to deliver poison gas by rocket and would have to load gas canisters on to bombers which would be destroyed by Israeli jets before they

even took off. Some reports say the United States was not told that Israel intended to test-fire its Arrow anti-missile system last week; others, that Washington knew full well, but wanted President Saddam to get the message that if the US did not attack him, Israel would.

America is refusing to provide Israel with "real-time intelligence" on Iraqi military movements unless Israel guarantees it will not launch a pre-emptive strike at Baghdad, some articles state; but as the newspaper *Haaretz* put it this week, American-Israeli intelligence co-operation is very close, and the US is playing it down to avoid alienating its new-found Arab allies.

Most Israelis, faced with these

contradictions, are going about their business normally.

There is some apprehension, as there was in August after the invasion of Kuwait and in October, when the authorities announced the distribution of gas masks.

This week nursing mothers were advised to abandon breastfeeding and accustom their babies to bottled milk, because bottles could be kept free of gas contamination.

A apocalyptically-minded biblical scholars can point to the aptness of the description of Armageddon given in the Book of Revelation. In this, the final battle begins over

the Euphrates amid "flashes of lightning, peals of thunder and a great earthquake such as has never been seen since men were on the earth." The city of Babylon, in modern Iraq, is destroyed "with great hailstones, heavy as a hundredweight, dropping from heaven".

Some Israelis, on the other hand, believe that President Saddam will avoid war by withdrawing from Kuwait at the last moment, agreeing to meet American officials, or pulling some other rabbit out of the hat.

Meggido itself offers a sense of perspective: cities have been built, destroyed and rebuilt on the site at least 20 times, and there have been many battles on the plain of Armageddon.



## Hungarian budget paves way for vital IMF package

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

AFTER weeks of bitter debate the Hungarian parliament yesterday approved a budget for 1991, making the country eligible for a crucial \$2 billion (£1.03 billion) emergency aid package from the International Monetary Fund. The 931-billion-forint (£7.8 billion) budget, passed by 214 votes to 128, meets IMF preconditions for a three-year accord with Hungary, which is burdened with eastern Europe's largest per capita foreign debt.

The IMF money, together with a European Community

credit of 870 million ecus (£610 million), is aimed at helping Hungary to avert further economic decline and to finance its transformation to a market economy.

As the end of year deadline for a budget accord neared at the weekend, Jozsef Antall, the prime minister, made a last minute emotional appeal to MPs, saying that failure to approve the plan could lead to a cut-off in international loans and force Hungary to re-schedule payments on its \$21 billion foreign debt which would "lead us down the road to financial catastrophe".

To meet IMF demands the government, faced with growing criticism that it is mismanaging the economy and moving too slowly to implement reforms, trimmed the budget deficit by a third to \$660 million and promised to make deep cuts in subsidies to loss-making state industries. It will also liberalise prices and imports and accelerate the privatisation process.

Critics claim, however, that the budget is a patchwork of hastily conceived short-term solutions which continues to expand social services and the state bureaucracy instead of imposing a more rigid and radical, Polish-style "shock" therapy on the economy.

To cushion the effects of 30 per cent inflation, the government agreed to increase child welfare allowances, pensions and salaries of some state employees, like teachers and health care workers, as well as sanctioning a costly compensation scheme for people persecuted during the early years of communist rule.

But it is still unclear how this will be financed. Like other former East European countries shedding their planned economies, Hungary has been hard hit by the collapse of the Comecon trading bloc and the switch from rouble to dollar accounting, while the cut-off of cheap Soviet oil supplies has swollen the nation's energy costs.

As parliament debated more than 300 amendments to the budget, Hungarians filled shops to stock up on food, medicines and household products whose prices will in some cases increase by a third today. In addition, electricity prices will double at a time when almost a quarter of all Budapest's residents admit that they are now no longer able to pay their relatively cheap monthly bills.

Worst affected by the economic realignment are pensioners, many of whom scrape by on state handouts of less than £60 a month, and young families caught in the housing squeeze and forced to live in cramped quarters or on the street.

With poverty growing, many Hungarians have taken to what one newspaper sadly described as "blood-donor tourism", crossing the border into Austria to sell blood for 700 schillings (£35).

## Albanian exodus increases

FROM CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

THE tide of Albanians seeking asylum in Greece swelled yesterday with the arrival of another 1,000 fugitives overnight.

The exodus continued as Constantine Mitsotakis, the Prime Minister, announced that he would pay a two-day official visit to Tirana on January 13, the first by a Greek government leader to the communist country. He will discuss the fate of the 400,000-strong ethnic Greek community and bilateral relations.

Yesterday's inflow was joined by two Albanian border guards who sailed a patrol boat to Corfu and asked for asylum. Six other refugees were picked up while swimming off Corfu.

Greece re-established diplomatic relations with Albania in 1987 while Athens was under socialist rule.

Mr Mitsotakis said that Greece hailed democratisation moves in Albania, adding that they would be "difficult".

Some of the fleeing refugees said they expected 2,000 to 3,000 men, women, and children to cross the barbed-wire border to Greece over the New Year holiday. Faced with the refugee influx, the Greek government insisted it had no plans to close the border with Albania, but a government spokesman, Byron Polydoras, appealed to the Greek minority in Albania to stay put and wait for "the inevitable" democratisation there.

Up to the weekend, 2,163 refugees had fled to Greece this year — 1,419 in December alone. At least six people have been shot dead by Albanian guards while trying to flee or drowned in unsuccessful attempts to swim to Corfu.

In another effort to discourage the exodus of Christians, the Church of Greece urged the Tirana regime to allow priests to travel to Albania for the feast of Epiphany on January 6th.

## Balkan exiles hope for year of the monarchs

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

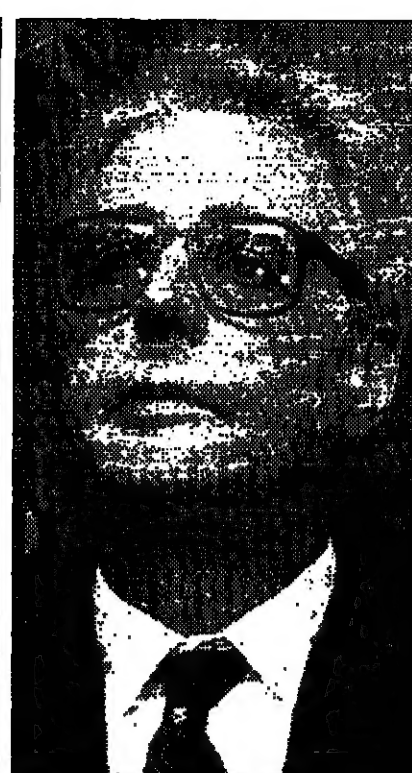
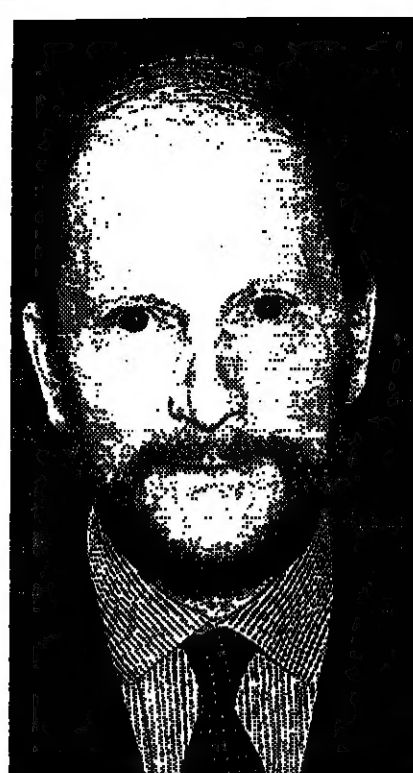
THE chaos attending the disintegration of old political structures in the Balkans raises the question as to whether three exiled monarchs might not find in 1991 their moment for a long awaited journey home.

The oldest of the three is the unfortunate King Michael of Romania who will be 70 next October. Banned from returning to his country by the Iliescu government, he believes Romania's predicament must ultimately be resolved by an adherence to the values of a constitutional monarchy.

Unfortunately, his occasional broadcasts to Romania from his Swiss home cut little ice in a country faced with corruption, bankruptcy and food shortages dismally similar to the worst days of the Ceausescu dictatorship.

Even Bucharest's intellectuals, several of whose parents served the monarchy, believe that the chances of a restoration are slim. The inability of the king's daughters to communicate in Romanian during their visits to Romania is seen as a serious handicap.

Nevertheless, those who know the king, who has eked out an existence in Switzerland, say he should not be underestimated. His childhood education alongside Hungarian and German children from Transylvania make



Three kings in waiting: Michael of Romania, left, Simeon of Bulgaria, centre, and Leka of Albania

him uniquely qualified to deal with the ethnic tensions which cast a long shadow over his country's future.

More popular, and some would say more politically gifted, is King Simeon of Bulgaria. Proclaimed king as a minor after his father, Boris, died in mysterious circumstances during the second

world war, he was forced to flee Bulgaria after a rigged communist referendum.

As in Romania, the former communists in power in Bulgaria have succeeded in preventing King Simeon from visiting his homeland.

Even Podkrepa, the independent trade union movement, believes that the king

should return. Georgi Arpadjov, one of its leaders, said recently: "We cannot ignore the fact that the monarchies in Europe are amongst the most stable countries in the world. But we must first democratise Bulgaria before we invite his majesty back". Increasing signs that the former communists' grip on Bul-

garia is waning suggest that 1991 might be the right moment for the king to return.

Related as he is to so many prosperous European royal houses through the fertile German house of Saxe-Coburg, his arrival in Sofia would be accompanied at the very least by Western goodwill. King Simeon lives in

Spain where he is a close friend of the royal family, who have shown dramatically how dictatorship can be transformed into a prosperous and popular constitutional monarchy.

In Bulgaria, King Simeon's picture over the past few months has become an increasingly visible icon in the empty shops.

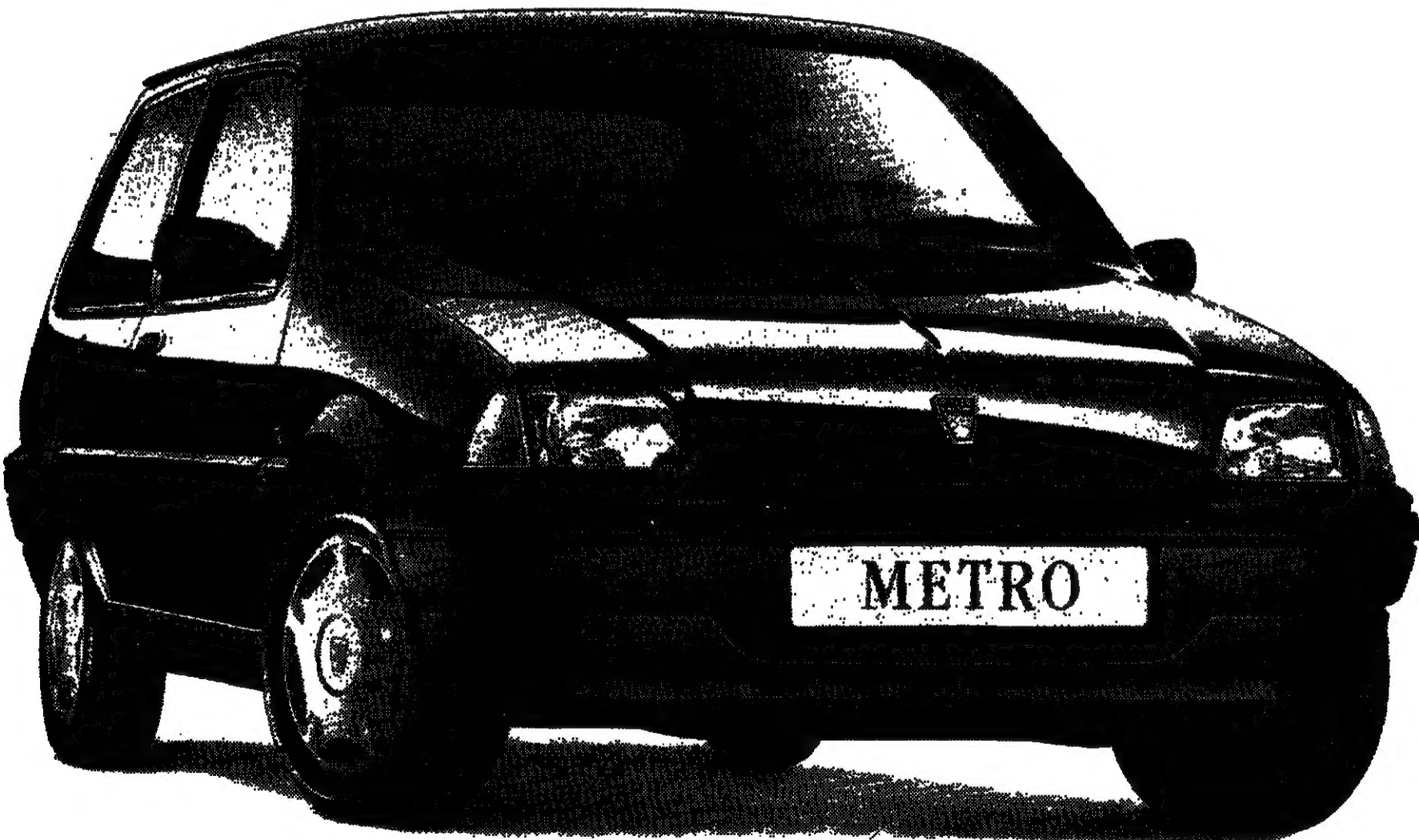
Less predictable is the future role of the monarchy in Albania. King Leka, who was last in Albania as a two-day-old baby before being forced to flee by the invading Italians with his parents, King Zog and Queen Geraldine, is watching developments in his country very carefully.

Those who have met King Leka, who proclaimed himself king in 1961 on the death of his father, are divided over his qualities. One British MP, who knows him very well, believes that he has inherited some of his father's political acumen and intelligence. Others, including some who through wartime service have had long acquaintance with Albania, admit to "finding it difficult to quite take the man seriously".

To the three wishful kings, there must also be added Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia. The crown prince is also following events in his country carefully. As a Yugoslav patriot, he is determined that Yugoslavia should not disintegrate.

## "THE BEST SMALL CAR IN THE WORLD."†

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AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£3340.00	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£6680.00

48 MONTHS			
7.4% PAF	14.3% APR		
CASH PRICE	£9880.00	MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£144.28
DEPOSIT (min. 20%)	£1336.00	CHARGE FOR CREDIT	£158.44
AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£5544.00	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£8271.44

## Romania abortions reach 1m in 1990

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

ONE million abortions were carried out in Romania last year, following the downfall of the Ceausescu regime. Health ministry figures for 1990, in a country of 5.5 million women of child bearing age, reflect Nicolae Ceausescu's effective ban on abortions and contraception as part of his megalomaniac attempt to double the country's population of 23 million. The numbers represent three abortions for every live birth. In Western countries the average is one abortion for every three live births.

Abortion and contraception were legalised in the first decree made by Romania's provisional government at the height of the 1989 Christmas revolution, but only became widely available in the past two months.

Today Romania has the most liberal abortion laws in Europe and the operation is the same price as a bottle of beer. The cost is the same as in 1966 when abortions were outlawed. "We are deliberately keeping the price low," said Dr Alin Stanescu, director-general of the ministry of health's mother and child protection department, "because we want to discourage women from continuing to have back street abortions."

However, the number of deaths after illegal abortions has dropped steeply, from more than 1,000 in 1989 to

perhaps 80 last year, according to Dr Sorin Puia, head of the Professor Sirbu obstetrics and gynaecology hospital in Bucharest. He has been collating figures along with the ministry and said that 400,000 women were treated by Romanian hospitals in 1989 for the effects of self-induced or back street abortions.

Dr Puia said that about 600,000 women had undergone abortions in 1990.

Dr Stanescu now wants a campaign to educate people. "We are starting from below zero," he said. "People are terribly ignorant and it is not that easy to change attitudes."

This view was confirmed by Oana Farcasanu, aged 21, a student at Bucharest University who said that she had a girlfriend who would "prefer to spend the money on a kilo of tomatoes and then have an abortion rather than spend the money on contraception."

Another woman said that apart from condoms, it was not true that contraceptives were now easily available. She said: "There are still not enough to go around. To make sure you can get the pill or whatever other type of contraceptive device you want, you've still got to have the right connections or bribe."

As contraception becomes more widely used, the numbers of abortions are expected to fall significantly.



## Woodrow Wyatt

...the





## A LEAN NEW YEAR

Happy New Year is not a greeting that comes naturally to economists. Moreover, the dismal scientists are notoriously subject to the herd instinct. This must be borne in mind when listening to the doom-laden prophecies for the new year as economists and businessmen vie with each other to predict the worst recession for a decade.

Given the lack of prescience displayed in the past by the economic conventional wisdom, the government may be tempted to ignore the "sure calls" for action against the current recession. Instinctively, both the prime minister and the chancellor would prefer to rely on the "natural" cyclical forces of the economy to pull the country out of recession. But the laissez-faire approach is dangerously inadequate for 1991.

October's decision to enter the European exchange-rate mechanism has short-circuited the automatic stabiliser which would normally produce a "natural" economic recovery. If it were not for the ERM, both interest rates and the exchange rate would now be tumbling as fast in London as they are in New York.

The government will be tempted to argue that the deeper the recession, the more rapid will be the decline in inflation. But this is an error. Policies of overkill against inflation can actually undermine future price stability if they destroy productive capacity, promote protectionism and generate pressures for uneconomic job-creation programmes.

These dangers are the greater because of the unprecedented financial fragility of British businesses. For years, the government and the business lobbies have boasted that the lean entrepreneurial businesses which now dominate the service-oriented economy would prove much more resilient than the bloated industrial behemoths of the 1970s. But now the "lean and hungry" entrepreneurs are themselves suffering from credit starvation. It would be tragic if the

entrepreneurial enthusiasm of the 1980s were to turn to disillusion and despair.

Laissez-faire is also an inadequate response to the British propensity to agree inflationary pay rises. This is not going to be eliminated by exhortation or by the so-called discipline of a fixed exchange rate. The causes of Britain's labour market problems lie on the supply side of the economy: in the systems of education, housing finance and transport; in the restrictive practices of unions, farmers, professional guilds and business cartels. The symptoms of these inflationary tendencies can be suppressed temporarily by unemployment, or tackled permanently by supply-side reform. The government should rely less on the former, and instead turn boldly to the latter.

What must be done? First, because this works quickest, the chancellor must cut interest rates. The ERM rules do not require him to wait for sterling to rise into the upper part of its range. The pound has only to stabilise above its ERM floor. And if a cut in interest rates were to send the pound falling to its ERM limit? Logic would dictate an ERM realignment, but if the chancellor was determined to adhere to the ERM discipline he could raise interest rates again to defend the currency, as the French and Italians have repeatedly had to do. The markets would be impressed and the government could then consider the alternative: a modest fiscal expansion in the Budget.

This will not come easy to a government that has set much store on borrowing less. But to borrow counter-cyclically, and after years of steady debt repayment, is not a sin against the ark of the covenant of financial rectitude. The sin, given the present recession, would be to do nothing. The probable penalty would be a lost election for the government, and a lost economic opportunity for the nation.

## SHADES OF SUEZ

When the foreign ministers of the European Community meet this Friday under their new chairman, M Jacques Poos of Luxembourg, they will have a simple question to answer. Is there any point in sending yet another diplomatic mission to Baghdad before January 15, the United Nations deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait?

The British, who stand to lose many lives in a Gulf war, say probably not. The holders of the community's presidency, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg — who stand to lose none — apparently think otherwise.

M Poos has already broadcast his affirmative answer to the proposal of a mission on the BBC. He has also offered his services as emissary of the Twelve, even-tipping his cards sufficiently to give Saddam Hussein advance warning of the message he would like to convey on behalf of his colleagues. M Poos says he would like to discuss "all questions of the Middle East" with the Iraqis. He must know that such a wide negotiating brief would contradict the existing policy of the coalition against Saddam, which is to demand first an Iraqi withdrawal, and only later offer talks on other regional disputes.

Had they been ready to dispatch a more junior figure than their secretary of state, the Americans might have arranged talks with Saddam more easily. Even so, they are right to insist on sending James Baker. Saddam is obsessed with prestige, and is unlikely to yield anything to a lesser official. Regardless of the privileges with which EC protocol may endow Luxembourg's presidency, his injudicious remarks suggest that M Poos may not be the best person to go to Baghdad, even supposing that a mission were desirable. The EC should likewise entrust only to ministers of the stature of Hans-Dietrich Genscher or Douglas Hurd any talks it may hold with a wily and unscrupulous ruler such as Saddam.

Is there a case for a mission from Brussels to Baghdad at all? Unless he leaves with George Bush's blessing, even the best

European diplomatist is likely to do more harm than good. Any hint which allows Saddam to go on believing in his own ultimate victory will be paid for in blood.

The aim is supposed to be to impress the Iraqi dictator with the hopelessness of his isolation. For that, solidarity with the United States is vital. If Mr Bush had publicly asked the EC to intervene, the mission would have a purpose. In the absence of any such request, Iraq may interpret an EC mission as the first crack in the western facade. Suez demonstrated the disastrous consequences of Europe and America failing to act in concert, and Saddam does not need reminding of that precedent.

Suez can, of course, be interpreted in more than one way. Edward Heath, who was the Tories' chief whip in 1956, seems to have retained a deep-seated mistrust of the US government. He accused Mr Bush yesterday of abandoning diplomacy in favour of "kicking Saddam up the arse", and supported M Poos's proposed initiative. Mr Heath's own war record is distinguished; he cannot be accused of cowardice. He is right to say that tens of thousands of lives depend on what Western politicians do over the next two weeks. Almost anything would be preferable to war.

Appeasement, however, would not. Mr Heath, like others who think as he does, is only relieving the pressure on Saddam to bring about, by withdrawal, the preconditions for a genuine compromise. If Saddam is persuaded to withdraw from Kuwait, there may well be a peaceful means of reaching a settlement acceptable to all sides. If he refuses to retreat, then the only real question facing the West is this: does the West want war now, to recapture Kuwait, or later, to defend other Gulf states or Israel? The choice is cruel, but it must be faced by the Europeans this week. If they lose their nerve, breaking ranks with Europe's rescuers in two world wars, Saddam will not be the only enemy of civilisation to profit.

## DISCOLOURING THE DANCE

Christmas at Covent Garden has brought not only the sugar-coated visions of *The Nutcracker*, but also the first chance to see black dancers appear with the Royal Ballet. That such a debut has been so long delayed is a sorry reminder of the colour-coded elitism of Britain's best dance company.

Exclusivity in the rarefied world of classical ballet is understandable, given the art form's white European roots. But it is now out of date. Other ballet companies in this country (English National Ballet and the Birmingham Royal Ballet, for example) have embraced black dancers. Ballet companies in North America years ago adopted integrated casting, making no distinction between black and white, with great success. The Royal Opera long ago broke down the colour barrier. Only the Royal Ballet has resisted. It clung on to the belief that all dancers should look as similar as possible, especially in classics such as *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*, and this militated against those with a different skin colour.

No one would argue in favour of fat ballet dancers, because they do not dance or look as good, at least in classical ballet where extension and line are all-important. But where uniformity is sought, it should be of where uniformity is sought. What makes a great skill not skin colour. The precision and unity of *corps de ballet* is the precision and unity of movement that comes from talent, training and hard work. None of these is the prerogative of a single race.

The black debut at Covent Garden follows years of pressure from the Arts Council and allegations of racism in the dance press. It is

a shame that the honour could not go to a British dancer. None the less, by inviting guest artists from the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Royal Ballet has opened the door to other black dancers. Anthony Dowell, its director, must now guard against tokenism. Christina Johnson and Ronald Perry should not be seen as curiosities. They must represent a commitment to develop black talent in this country.

In the short term this commitment should be manifested through further casting of suitably qualified black guest artists, mainly from overseas. In the long term it will be through the seeking out and nurturing of young black talent at the Royal Ballet School. That should not be difficult. As anyone with a child in ballet class knows, the passion for ballet is no longer confined to white, middle-class children.

Any art form benefits from a broader pool of talent. In ballet, not only will performances offer a wider range of interpretations, but once choreographers — both black and white — tap into the riches of Afro-Caribbean dance movement, the ballet repertoire itself will be enhanced. Once the shock of the new passes, ballet audiences will soon find they overlook considerations of colour — as they do in America — once they see that the artistic standards are being maintained or indeed improved. The fact that the Royal Ballet's audience is almost uniformly white is no justification for a similar exclusivity on stage. On the contrary, a more representative company will one day lead to a more racially-mixed audience.

## Cost of caring for refugees

From Mr Alf Dubs and Mr Malcolm Harper

Sir, The beginning of 1991 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the international body set up to protect the great majority of the world's refugees. Since January 1, 1951, UNHCR has seen the need for its work steadily increase. Unfortunately the organisation has also found a general, growing unwillingness on the part of richer nations to meet the costs of protecting and caring for the nearly 16 million people who make up this powerless group.

Despite the assumptions of some politicians, only a tiny proportion of the world's refugees come to the west. The majority can be found in developing countries, often in camps. These are vulnerable people, driven from their homes by war and human rights abuses. And yet a lack of funds for UNHCR has led to serious cutbacks. Refugees of all ages are directly affected, and there are high rates of malnutrition even among children under five.

We accept that Britain is one of the largest donors to the work of the High Commissioner, and the Minister for Overseas Development, Lynda Chalker, has also shown commitment to the need for longer-term help for settlement in countries of asylum, or for those finally able to go home (as in the case of Namibia).

But there is no room for complacency. Refugees in the third world need support and protection if they are to stand any chance of rebuilding their lives. Prosperous nations, like Britain, surely have a duty to do more to make sure that 1991 is not marked by a failure to help this most vulnerable group. We hope instead that this will be the year in which international commitment to supporting refugees once again starts to grow.

Yours etc,  
ALF DUBS (Director),  
The Refugee Council,  
MALCOLM HARPER (Director),  
United Nations Association,  
3 Bondway, SW8,  
December 27.

## Treasure trove

From Mr Michael J. Cuddeford

Sir, The letter from Laurence Keen (December 22) on the subject of treasure trove perpetuates a long-standing controversy by failing to point out that the ring in question, like the Middleham Jewel, was by the evidence of its location in fact probably an accidental loss. It is therefore unlikely that either would ever have been discovered by any means other than amateur prospecting, and thus it seems irrelevant to dispute the right of the finders to dispose of such items as they see fit. By virtue of the fact that these items have been recorded, drawn and photographed for others to study, our common heritage has indeed benefited, which should be the objective of scholarship, rather than quibbling over who gets to display the object. One can only hope that in time, heritage fundamentalists will come to recognise this, and set about creating an atmosphere in which the finders of potentially historic items will seek to have them recorded voluntarily, rather than by any legal coercion.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL J. CUDDEFORD,  
Hill House, Back Lane,  
Fleshey, Chelmsford, Essex,  
December 22.

## Released cats

From Ms Joan Court

Sir, Your report (December 26) implies that the Animal Liberation Front would release the cats freed from the Oxford Research Breeding Centre into the open. In fact the policy of the ALF is to place all liberated domestic and farm animals with caring and responsible families.

I can well believe that the cats set free have weak immune systems, but one can assume they will improve with love, warmth, good food and freedom.

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN COURT,  
(Animal Rights Campaigner),  
74 Sturton Street, Cambridge,  
December 27.

## Seen from below

From the Reverend David G. Street

Sir, On a recent TV business programme an economist who had been invited to comment on the balance of trade figures stated that "we are seeing a bottoming out in the invisibles".

If we are indeed now seeing them do this, it is right to go on calling them "invisibles".

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID G. STREET,  
80 Woodside,  
Barward Castle, Co Durham.

## Training architects

From Miss Stefanie Fischer

Sir, Reading Owen Luder's contribution (December 19) as a past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects to the debate on architectural education, I am heartened by Richard MacCormac's recent success in the presidential elections (report, December 18) and the prospect of the institute being headed by an eminent practitioner concerned with design quality.

Mr Luder emphasises the importance in architectural courses of

## Aid channels from West to East

From Ms Sara Parkin

Sir, While the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze (report, December 21) may be part of a larger strategy by the reformers in the Soviet Union, western governments would be wise to take it as a warning to review their own larger strategy towards eastern Europe.

Mr Gorbachev never intended perestroika to create a Soviet Union in the mirror image of western developed countries. He could see very well what happens to "weak" economies in the global marketplace. His vision was of the new Soviet Union and the independent east European countries developing their economies (with western help) so as to take part in world trade as part of a world region which was economically healthy in its own right.

However the west saw it differently. The collapse of communism has been used to brush aside developing doubts about the logic of capitalism and its increasingly negative effects on the environment and a growing number of people. If the east has lost, then the west must have won.

Indeed, all the institutions involved in organising aid to and trade with east Europe expect it to be focused on developing western-style market economies linked to the rest of the world. The new European Bank for Reconstruction and Dev-

elopment, unique amongst multi-lateral agencies, is including this condition in its articles.

Judging how perestroika would evolve was always going to be a rough art and Mr Gorbachev seriously miscalculated two things. First, the immediacy and the intensity of the demands for local autonomy and secondly the proportion of people's needs which were met "informally" by the black market.

The breaking up of this complex web of economic activity has greatly contributed to the present chaos. By asking Mr Gorbachev to adopt the same flawed economic logic as the west, we are not helping but gravely hindering the development of a democratic and self-reliant nation.

The biggest helping hand we can give to the Soviet Union as a whole is to set up east-west exchanges and "know-how" programmes for ordinary people and to channel cash directly to local communities via local banks. In this way external aid can combine with the considerable enterprise and personal savings of Soviet citizens to generate local economic activity to meet local needs.

Yours faithfully,  
SARA PARKIN,  
(Speaker, Green Party UK),  
18 Boulevard Pinet,  
69003 Lyons, France,  
December 21.

## Fisheries policy

From Mr Thoby Young

Sir, Among the fears for the future of North Sea fishing communities there is little vision of the future of British fisheries in general (leading article, December 19).

Permitted white fish landings in Britain have been reduced by 50 per cent in the last two years. Acknowledging the inevitable, the Scottish Fishermen's Federation has taken a lead by proposing to reduce its fishing effort by 30 per cent in 1991 and to reduce its fleet capacity by 40 per cent. But the fisheries minister, David Curry, has prevented the EC's decommissioning scheme, which would soften the blow of this decision, from going ahead by refusing to stump up the 30 per cent from national funds that the scheme requires.

Why? Mr Curry cites poor value for money. The expenditure of a few hundreds of millions of pounds

would reduce the size of the British fishing fleet permanently. It would safeguard the future for a smaller fishing fleet and, combined with inserts of square mesh in nets, conserve a resource the capital value of which has never properly been appreciated.

A national fisheries policy that looked to smaller boats in local fisheries would moreover improve the quality of fish available both to the general public and the catering trade. The language of "business" has been rejected by the new health minister. The education and the arts ministers cannot be far behind. Mr Curry, running a department that is close to wiping out certain species in the North Sea, should look at "value for money" in broader and above all longer terms.

Yours etc,  
THOBY YOUNG,  
The Fresh Fish Co.,  
100 Baywater Road, W2,  
December 20.

## Damage at birth

From the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health

Sir, Your correspondent, Miss Sarah Leigh (December 13), appears to have misunderstood the principal point I was making in my recent William Power lecture. This was to draw attention to the fact that the majority of medical experts now believe that cerebral palsy is rarely caused by damage to the brain during delivery and that therefore medical intervention (or the lack of it) during labour seldom affects the outcome. It follows that in cases of cerebral palsy it may well be inappropriate to sue for negligence, on that basis.

On the more general issue of the escalation of medical negligence litigation, I did not advocate any particular solution but drew atten-

tion to schemes tried or suggested in other countries. Nor did I propose that a patient's right to sue for negligence should be removed. However, I mooted the possibility of replacing the current adversarial system by an inquisitorial one, and of using phased rather than once-and-for-all lump sum settlements.

Finally, I mentioned the issue of the very extended time limits which are currently permitted when a claim can be made on behalf of a child and the difficulty in adjudicating such an issue after a long lapse of time.

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD ACHESON,  
Chief Medical Officer,  
Department of Health,  
Richmond House,  
79 Whitehall, SW1,  
December 21.

## Commission powers

From Mr Anthony Kinch

Sir, Commissioners are not civil servants of the Community, nor of any member state (Lord Killean's letter, December 19). There is no civil servant in the world who has been given the obligation to formulate proposals for legislation, together with the right to negotiate the proposal with the legislature, and even to withdraw it at any time before it is adopted.

This responsibility, exercised on behalf of the Community, is a unique function of a different order from that of a civil servant.

Commissioners appear regularly at plenary sessions of the parliament

and before its committees, both in Strasbourg and in Brussels. What qualitative difference there is between commissioners being questioned in one place or another is not clear to me.

I, too, was sad that M Delors expressed himself in the way he did, but I defend his right to say it. The sooner the members of our legislature understand what they signed up for 18 years ago, the better placed we shall all be to fight for British interests, as we move forward together with our partners in the Community.

Yours faithfully,  
A. F. KINCH,  
36 Greenways, Beckenham, Kent.

## Anchor to the past

From Professor S. F. Bush

Sir, It is certainly a novel thought from the University of Strathclyde (Sir Graham Hill's letter, December 26) that there should be a five-year moratorium on performances of Gilbert and Sullivan on the grounds that they are too nostalgic-inducing and not conducive to our embracing "our future in Europe or elsewhere".

No people is so constantly told of its own shortcomings as the British (especially the English), as Gilbert remarks in *The Mikado* — "the idiot who prides with enthusiastic tone... every country but his own". Equally, I wonder if any other imperial power at its apogee would have tolerated in *HMS Pinafore*, let alone *Patience*, the gentle mockery of its most prized instrument, the Royal Navy.

Certainly Gilbert would have had a field day with the pretensions of

the European Community, with its nostalgic hankering for an imaginary past — Charlemagne's short-lived empire — its absurd passion for regulating everything in sight and the blind faith that this travesty of Europe somehow constitutes Britain's future.

Far from being an anchor to the past, properly taught our huge achievements as a nation over many centuries would be a springboard for the future, an inspiration for our young people, and an antidote to the crippling pessimism — now of epic proportions — infecting so many of our national institutions.

Certainly what is arguably our most successful national institution in the post-war period — the British Army — yields to none in its modern-day professionalism or its pride in its past battle honours.

Yours truly,  
S. F. BUSH,  
Genval, Millstone Close,  
Poynton, Cheshire.

## Spanish rebuff to other faiths

From Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy

Sir, Spanish and Portuguese Jewish communities throughout the world had mixed feelings as to whether we should commemorate the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. After much contemplation, many of us decided to work closely with the Spanish government to arrange activities which will highlight the contribution that the Jews made, not only to Judaism and to Spanish culture, but also to European civilisation during our long stay in that country. This great contribution was brought to a cruel end by the edict of expulsion of Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492.

To think of beautifying Isabella on the 500th anniversary of that edict (report, December 18) is highly insensitive to Jewish feelings. Is this the way that the Catholic Church wishes to atone for its behaviour towards Jews in the past?

Yours sincerely,  
ABRAHAM LEVY (Communal Rabbi, Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation),  
2 Ashworth Road, W9.

From Dr Charis Waddy

Sir, As your report notes, the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage is also that of the conquest of Granada and the subsequent expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain. On the Christian side, it was a victory marked by deeds of shame which no one today would wish to seem to condone.

Whatever some Christians or some Muslims may do, the use of force to compel belief is neither Christian nor Islamic. The Koran states emphatically more than once, "There is no compulsion in religion".

It is often forgotten that 700 years of Arab civilisation in Spain made a vital contribution to modern Europe. Through Muslim scholars and Jewish and Christian translators the basics of science and philosophy were transmitted to new universities in the north — notably Oxford and Paris. This debt has been acknowledged by scholars, and documented by the Bodleian Library in an exhibition in honour of a new century of Islam.

Such anniversaries can exacerbate conflict, or be points of unity and appreciation. Bigotry has its grip on the modern world: to loosen it will take every resource of heart and wisdom. We are at a point where co-operation between the Abrahamic faiths — between Jews, Christians and Muslims — is urgent for world peace and development.

A word of gratitude for what we owe may help to reinforce mutual respect, and open the way to common action on urgent questions that concern us all.

Yours truly,  
CHARIS WADDY,  
12 Norham Road, Oxford.

## In this year

From Mr Peter May

Sir, The search for anniversaries can lead to disconcerting results. Mr Blandford (December 21) has found a 50th — the occupation of Baghdad by British troops — for June 1991. Were he to have gone back another 25 years he would have discovered a 75th — the surrender in April 1916 of some 10,000 British and colonial troops under General Townshend at Kut, where they had taken refuge after the failure of their attempt to capture Baghdad.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MAY,  
43 Freston, Paston,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
December 21.

From the Reverend Christopher Kevell-Davies

Sir, Mr Blandford mentions British troops in Baghdad in 1941. In 1191 Richard I attacked and took the city of Acre from the Muslims as part of his crusade; in 1291 the Sultan al-Ashraf Khalil attacked and took it back again. Both events included massacre, cruelty, destruction, treachery and tyranny in a conflict between Christians and Muslims.

Which century, if either, will be remembered in 1991?

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER KEVELL-DAVIES,  
The Rectory, Barkway,  
Royston, Hertfordshire,  
December 21.

## Game of the name

From Mr Michael Russell

Sir, The advertisement placed by Eastern Electricity (Mr Nickson's letter, December 19) provides an interesting analysis of first names. Assuming that employees are aged between 20 and 60, we have a 40-year period over which certain names have remained popular.

There were over 10,000 names in the list. The top seven for men and women were:

John	515	Susan	111
David	434	Jane	87
Michael	311	Julia	77
Peter	308	Catherine	61
Paul	230	Ann(e)	56
Stephen	213	Margaret	53
Robert	211	Carol(ine)	51

\*Including Rob and Bob.  
Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL RUSSELL,  
59 Rosslyn Avenue,  
Barnes, SW13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.





# COURT CIRCULAR

**CLARENCE ROUSE**  
January 1: Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

**Anniversaries**  
**BIRTHS:** Edmund Burke, statesman and writer, Dublin, 1731; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackbourn, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazier, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (Henrietta Richardson), novelist, Melbourne, 1870; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879.

**DEATHS:** William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; Johann Berauelli, mathematician, Basel, 1748; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1904; Maurice Chevalier, Paris, 1928; John Aloysius Costello, prime minister of Ireland 1948-51, 1954-57, 1976.

**Royal tours**  
The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit India at the invitation of the President in February.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Brazil at the invitation of the President in April 1991.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Washington, DC, in May 1991.

## Archbishop prays for Terry Waite

DR ROBERT RUNCIE today delivered his final year message as the Archbishop of Canterbury with a prayer that Terry Waite, his special envoy, would be released in 1991.

Dr Runcie, who retires in a month, used his traditional message to reflect on his 10 years as archbishop, particularly remembering Mr Waite, aged 51, who was kidnapped in January 1987. "A lot of prayers and work are directed towards his return and I am sure you will join me in praying that he and others in the Lebanon will be released in 1991," Dr Runcie said.

"The tragedy of Terry's captivity has been accompanied by an enormous and continuous wave of prayer across the world and support for his family, which has sustained them in their distress."

Speaking on BBC1, Dr Runcie celebrated the positive virtues he had encountered. "It has been said that my time in office has coincided with the 'Me' generation. But frankly I've seen too much kindness, self-sacrifice and generosity to believe that to be true."

"I do, though, see some justification for calling it the 'Now' generation. The past is more than a snapshot nostalgia. Without a deeper sense of the past we may lose gifts God has given us for handling the present."

The journalist John McKelvey, aged 31, and Jack Mann, aged 76, the former Battle of Britain fighter pilot, are the other British hostages held in Lebanon.

## OBITUARIES

### SIR DAVID PIPER

Sir David Towry Piper, CBE, director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, from 1973 to 1985, died on December 27, aged 72. He was born on July 21, 1918.

BRITAIN has the ability to throw up museum and gallery directors who are articulate and much more broadly steeped in civilisation than is strictly necessary even for the jobs they hold. Sir David Piper illuminated the English scene not just as a museum director, for which he was amply qualified, but also as an author of books on London and portraiture and even as a novelist.

Not surprisingly, he never threw off his interest in faces. His books showed his fascination with the way artists saw them - which went with his job as an assistant keeper at the National Portrait Gallery in 1946, then as director, keeper and secretary between 1964-7. His career also took off into the academic world and spanned Oxfordshire as well as becoming director and Marlay curator of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, he was elected fellow of Christ's College. He was Slade professor of fine art at Oxford from 1966-7 and Clark lecturer (1977-8) then Rede lecturer (1983) at Cambridge.

His greatest triumph was his direction of the Ashmolean Museum. There had previously been no director of the museum, its direction having been in the hands of whoever was the senior departmental keeper at the time. By 1967 there were four departments that had become accustomed to a degree of independence that was sometimes unruly. To keep the balance, a greater degree of centralisation of the museum was decided upon, and in 1973 Piper was appointed the first director, and elected fellow of Worcester College.

If the four departments were on the look-out for interference in their affairs, they met with none, for he stepped on no toes. Never interfering in detail but always being accessible, he gave the departments free rein to develop their individualities and their diversity. With his firm aesthetic standards, his clear idea of what needed to be done, and his way of getting it done, he directed the museum with self-confidence, unobtrusive strength, subtle diplomacy, and gentle irony. His professional knowledge of the museum world greatly strengthened the Ashmolean, and his cautiously sympathetic attitude to innovation moved it with the times in a changing Oxford.

Something of his personal ideals comes out in *Trial by Battle*, a second world war novel, which chose jungle fighting against the Japanese as the ordeal. Piper's own health suffered when he was captured by the Japanese on the Malaysian Peninsula while serving with the 9th Jat Regiment of the Indian Army.



Alan Mart, his hero or victim, is of a kind once very common in English fiction: quiet, civil, sensitive, questioning but obedient. Evidently from a public school, he has since been to Cambridge, and almost forgotten the necessity to conform and to emulate more sturdily, spontaneously male. Without implying a comparison, Piper went to Clifton College and then to St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

He was very early on fascinated by *The English Face*, the title of a book he produced in 1957 when on the staff of the National Portrait Gallery. Already his scholarship was being directed by an unusually perceptive imagination. He assembled 145 portraits from the beginning of naturalistic portraiture in 1400, to 1900. He said the object was to show how their relationship to the flesh and blood which they represented was controlled - by artistic and editorial fashions, by the individualities of the sitters and the artist, and how through time that relationship altered. The book indicated his ability to discern subterranean movements that give rise to change, as well as to see it analytically in an historic context.

The faces of London and Oxford were hardly less fascinating to him. In 1964 he wrote *The Companion Guide to London*, which *The Times* said turned out to be a surprisingly rare thing, a book about London that deserved to be read as literature. "Strangers no less than citizens will find Mr Piper a lively civilised companion as well as guide."

He returned to his subject to write *London* in 1971, which showed that being civilised involves discernment and does not mean acceptance of the merely monumental. He described the tombs and monuments in Westminster Abbey as "the paraphernalia of the illustrious English dead".

His two interests came together in *Artists' London* (1982), which begins with Tudor and Stuart cartographers and leaves the reader wondering with him why the railways did not inspire great art; or why - apart from Ford Madox Brown's *Work* set in Hampstead High Street - London did not appeal to the Pre-Raphaelites. There was no question in his mind about the matter: "The moodiest, most haunting visual poetry that has ever been spun out of London was Monet's."

The breadth of his scholarship was again disclosed in the sumptuous *Treasures of Oxford*, a guide to all the art collections in the university and city of Oxford, with an excursion to Blenheim Palace. The survey was illustrated by more than 120 reproductions.

He leaves a widow, Anne, and a son and three daughters.

## REAR ADMIRAL DUDLEY DAVENPORT

Rear Admiral Dudley Leslie Davenport, former captain of the aircraft carrier *Victorious*, and later *Flag Officer Malta*, died on December 27, aged 71. He was born on August 17, 1919.

DUDLEY Davenport's long and distinguished naval career was nearly terminated a few years after it began when the destroyer *Blanche* in which he was serving as a sub lieutenant struck a magnetic mine off Margate shortly after the outbreak of the second world war. He owed his life to the loss of a mine.

The mines had been sown along the Thames estuary the previous night by a flotilla of German destroyers operating under the cover of thick fog. As the unsuspecting British warship, escorted a battle cruiser through the Channel, neared the German minefield early next day, the young Davenport tossed a half crown piece with his fellow officer on the nightwatch to decide which of them would go below first for an early bath.

He won. The other officer died in the explosion which followed minutes later. Davenport, though knocked unconscious by the blast, survived with a hairline fracture of the skull - and a memorable headline in the *Daily Mirror*: "Bloody officer found in bath." Then aged 20 he was already known to the navy as the son of Vice-Admiral R.C. Davenport, who had been brought back from retirement for convoy duties in the trans-Atlantic sea lanes.

When news of the sinking of the *Blanche* came through, a thoughtful officer in the Admiralty sent a signal to the vice-admiral's convoy which was then in the Western Approaches to assure him that his son had survived the disaster. But young Dudley had already won some distinction on his own. Not long after leaving Dartmouth where he was a member of the Hawke term, he was mentioned in despatches when only a midshipman while on security duties off the coast of Palestine.

The sinking of the *Blanche* was, moreover, a dramatic start to what was to be for him an eventful war. After recovering from his injuries he was back at sea in February 1940, this time in the Tribal class destroyer *Mashona*, taking part in the Norwegian campaign and then in the following year in the hunt for the *Bismarck*. While returning from this operation, he escaped with his life for the second time. The *Luffwaffe* bombed the *Mashona* in the Atlantic, 100 miles to the west of Ireland. More than 40 sailors lost their lives, but Davenport was among the lucky ones to be plucked from the sea by the destroyer's sister ship, the *Somali*. The young officer who hailed him from the sea was Ludovic Kennedy.

After five years of almost continuous action Dudley Davenport was rewarded in 1945 with the command of his own destroyer, the *Holmes*, followed by another destroyer, HMS *Porlock Bay*. Like others of his generation who served throughout the war Dudley Davenport learned much from his early experience as a young officer. He took the navy's own staff course in this country, commanded the naval barracks at Chatham and between 1958-60 served on the staff of the Admiral commanding reserves. He did two years in command of the inshore flotilla in the Far East and in 1962 was made director of officer appointments (seaman's branch).

He went to sea again in command of the *Victorious* 1964-7, during which he was known as a caring and compassionate commander and then, in 1967-9, was made Flag Officer Malta - his final appointment. His responsibilities included preparing for the rundown of Britain's naval presence in the Mediterranean. After leaving the navy, he moved into the private industry and worked as a personnel director before finally retiring at the age of 60.

He is survived by his widow, Joan, herself the daughter of a surgeon commander in the Royal Navy, and by two sons.



## Dublin takes over as city of culture

By SIMON TAIT AND STEPHANIE BILLEN

DUBLIN today takes over Glasgow's mantle as European City of Culture for the year with a budget 15 times smaller and a twentieth the number of events planned.

Highlights will be the opening of a Museum of Modern Art and Writing, a season of Samuel Beckett plays, an international piano competition, and a performance of Handel's *Water Music* on the Liffey.

The city has £3.5 million for its 200 events, with funding from the Irish National Lottery augmented by local authorities, commercial sponsors, cultural institutions, tourist boards and the European Community. Glasgow had £50 million to spend on its 4,000 events.

The Scots can look back on the opening of a £27-million concert hall and the £2.5 million McLellan Galleries, plus the Bolshoi Opera's first British visit, the current Van Gogh exhibition and the performances of *The Ship*, the play about the city's ship-building industry, which attracted an audience of 47,000.

Glasgow used 1990 to establish a cultural infrastructure on which it could build. Dublin, the city of Swift, Sheridan, Wilde, Joyce and Beckett - most of whom had to make their reputations abroad - is already rich in its cultural traditions and new theatre, literature and music are thriving. Marian Fitzgibbon, press officer for the year of culture, described the place as a fruitcake of culture: "We are merely putting the icing on."

Lewis Clossessy was appointed director of the year 14 months ago. "We have been blessed by anniversaries next year - everything from the 75th of the Easter Rising and

## DESMOND CLARKE

Desmond Lacy Clarke, an authority on trees and shrubs, died on December 26, aged 76. He was born on September 10, 1914.

DESMOND Clarke entered the world of horticulture on leaving the BBC after the second world war, when he made weekly broadcasts to Yugoslavia. He devoted almost 15 years to revising the four volumes of *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, by W.J. Bean, an internationally acclaimed and detailed botanical and horticultural guide.

So skilful was the revision that the original, personal and highly readable style of Bean has been preserved, yet at the same time the nomenclature and cultural details have been updated. This was followed by the compilation of a supplement, in effect a fifth volume, notable for its inclusion of new species and cultivars and contributions on pests and diseases of woody plants. His achievements were marked by the Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society, its highest award, given to British horticulturalists whom the society considers deserving of special honour. He also received the society's gold Veitch Memorial Medal, for helping the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture.

Clarke was generally recognised in horticultural circles to be the only single person (as opposed to a team) who could have revised Bean, for not only did he have the time but was meticulous in his approach to his work, and also an excellent practical horticulturalist and dendrologist. He was a member of the International Dendrology Society.

Expeditions to Kashmir, Chile and Argentina helped to increase his knowledge of trees and shrubs. He became particularly interested in South American woody plants and grew a collection of more than 100 varieties in his large garden in Haslemere, Surrey, which he also used for trials and research, growing collections of woody plants that he needed to study and compare for the revision.

Clarke was a member of the management committee at Borde Hill Garden, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and helped to compile another major reference work, *Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs*, with Roy Lancaster.

Clarke never married and was retiring by nature, disliking crowds. This was one reason why he was never seen at horticultural events and shows. He preferred to write to horticulturalists while revising Bean and assembled a large collection of correspondence and a large library, which includes many rare books on woody plants.

## BIRTHDAY'S today

Dr Jack Birks, company chairman, 71; Lord Colwyn, 49; Sir James Crane, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 70; Mrs Christine Crowley, MEP, 61; Sir John Dick, QC, 71; Professor Dame June Lloyd, paediatrician, 63; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 73; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, 76; Mr James Moorehouse, MEP, 67; Colonel P.A. Porteous, VC, 73; Sir Christopher Prout, QC, MEP, 49; Professor R.A. Raphael, chemist, 70; Sir Ashton Roalson, QC, former chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 89; Mr Lawrence Rowe, cricketer, 42; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 72; Lord Swanses, 66.

## University news

**Wales**  
University of Wales College of Medicine  
Grants  
Dr T.G. Hogg, Department of Immunology, £20,719 from Blood Research Council, to support research in immunology.  
Dr M. Shaw, Department of Cardiology, £125,040 from the British Heart Foundation for a period of three years in support of a study into the development of a new type of artificial heart.  
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## Jewellery demonstrates early goldsmiths' skills

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

GOLDSMITHS in ancient South America were able to manipulate their alloys with considerable precision despite rudimentary equipment, according to a recent study. The smiths were able to work with metals with melting points only 75 deg C apart to assemble pieces of jewellery.

The discovery comes from the analysis of two small gold studs, probably made as lip or nose ornaments, from the site of La Tolita on the coast of Ecuador. Although the precise date of the studs is unknown, the local tradition of metal-working began before the time of Christ and continued until the Spanish conquest.

Such facial ornaments were made with a flat oval disc and a cylindrical shank that passed through the flesh; the latter was usually only 1-2mm in diameter, similar to that on a modern ear-ring, and the head was 5-6mm across.

The two parts were made separately and then soldered together. It is in the subtly different composition of the solder that the ancient metallurgists' skill is most obviously displayed. Drs D.A. Scott and E. Doehne of the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles found that a clear distinction was visible under the microscope when a cross section of the stud was etched with potassium cyanide and ammonium persulphate. The solder had a different gold content.

The shank and head were both 20 per cent gold, 78 per cent copper, and 2 per cent silver, an alloy melting at 1,025 deg C. The solder was 42 per cent gold, 48 per cent copper and 10 per cent silver, and melted at 950 deg C. The analysts say that the difference of only 75 degrees, while working with very hot metal, meant that the soldering operation would have to be carefully controlled in order not to melt the shank and head.

The analysts say that these results have "demonstrated the considerable practical skills of the La Tolita goldsmiths in the use of different types of gold alloy".

Source: *Archaeometry* 32: 183-190.

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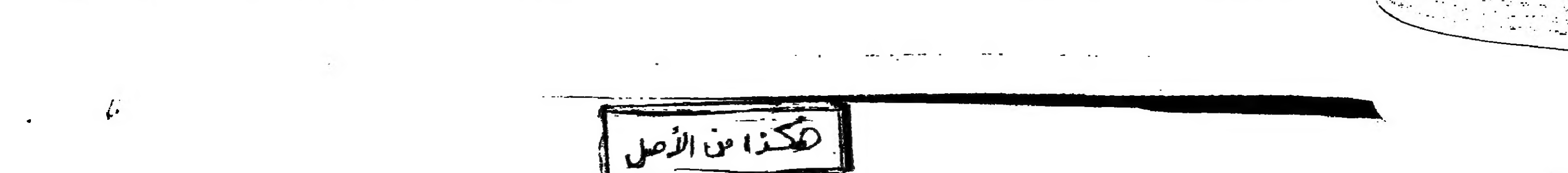
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# The Times prize new year jumbo

## Test your word power in our holiday competition

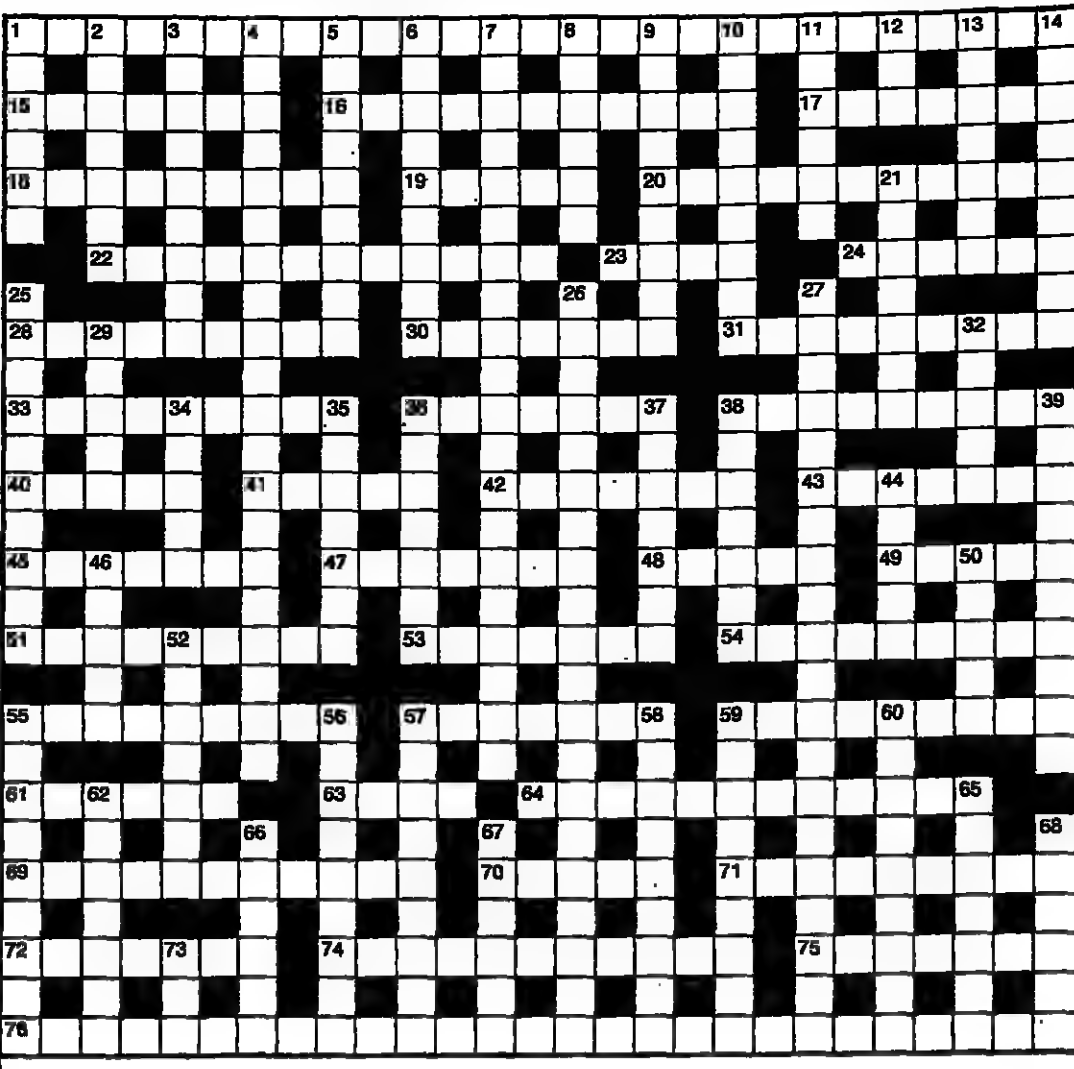
## ACROSS

- 1 Raleigh's instruction to one turning over a new leaf - there! (3,4,2,4,4,3,5,2)
- 15 Flavour preserved, mostly, in Clydeside town (7)
- 16 Galactic ore turns out to be positive (11)
- 17 Cheer this organ section! (7)
- 18 Missed degree, we hear, playing a variety of poker (9)
- 19 Where to find water-hole in the existing state of affairs? (5)
- 20 He studies China, for example, to improve relations with it (11)
- 22 Tale about one man's ruin - that was Jude's business (12)
- 23 Copper-salt turnover in the West Indies (4)
- 24 Brave to take the pledge! (6)
- 28 Depend on a sure pie? Hardly! (9)
- 30 Emergency telephone-link in hotel is unusual (3,4)
- 31 Making good and working in harmony, workers start to thrive (9)
- 33 Evening service from Worcester, possibly (6-3)
- 36 Forward, the replacement for Daniel, say (7)
- 38 Dictionary definition of the South American aurochs? (9)
- 40 Party longing for a respected senior member (5)
- 41 Composer's "Unfinished" we hear in this bit of Belgium (5)
- 42 Is this military trainer's work boring? (7)
- 43 Acrobat polished on the bar? (7)
- 45 National side on the ball in America (7)
- 47 In sin bin, Rex and Bobby! (7)
- 48 The wine store has to move house (5)
- 49 Direction in which no players are silent (5)
- 51 Jellyfish harmless if grasped boldly? (3-6)
- 53 Aromatic substance kept in archaic amphorae (7)
- 54 Standard of the French rifle ammo has gone off (9)
- 55 Presumptuous, for sure (9)
- 57 Nuts in hand? (7)
- 59 Forecaster who declined the Apollo proposal? (9)
- 61 A leger can turn to malt vinegar (6)
- 63 Star part chosen by Bassanio (4)
- 64 Person interested in the striker's case? (12)
- 69 Does it produce a being-in-stitches sensation in the theatre? (8-3)
- 70 Where, in film-studio, do they stage an attack? (5)
- 71 Delivery section? (9)
- 72 Capital needed for oil change after journey (7)
- 74 Maraschino cocktail, about noon, is an old-fashioned thing (11)
- 75 How like the hedgehog, to take a turn round Kent! (7)
- 76 In the inn, anyone under ten ended in a heap this year (8,7,3,6-3)

## DOWN

- 1 Palma's variety of green quartz (6)
- 2 Drives through American streets (7)
- 3 Useless to instruct one to keep off the grass! (9)
- 4 Absolute essentials of anything in the arboretum (3,8,2,3,4)
- 5 What must done for, say, screen-set (9)
- 6 Old style loyalty protecting Biblical King from Eastern barbarian (9)
- 7 Testing motorcar in due fashion, log-book needed (12,8)
- 8 Movement of fools, would you say, towards the interior? (6)
- 9 It can accompany something penned in the paddock (9)
- 10 Invalid, one on a par with a woman who has never borne a child (9)
- 11 Supporter of firm in transport (6)
- 12 No black horse in Bowness to have as property (3)
- 13 Junior white-collar worker in a row sometimes? (7)
- 14 Care for some medicine? (9)
- 21 Exotic walk of an unconvincing lawyer (7)
- 25 Quality of some photographs taken secretly? (10)
- 26 Pen-portrait of Maxim, you could say (8,4,3,5)
- 27 His history of split personality troubles Inverness, too, in a way (6,5,5)
- 29 The ends of the speedway are gritted (5)
- 32 Take on distressed loner (5)
- 34 Bit of a rotten nuisance, the doldrums! (5)
- 35 Chabrier's garden composition (3-4)
- 36 Appeasing, in the main (7)
- 37 Rail that crosses road? (4-3)
- 38 Spanish bull not loose in city (7)
- 39 He maintains he has been called up (10)
- 44 Tin, say, can provide sort of square meal outside (5)
- 46 Suspicion of showers after midnight (5)
- 50 I would follow young Timothy Shy (5)
- 52 Last letters of mine in untidy heap (7)
- 55 Fake daily reverses place of birth (9)
- 56 Forerunner of the phone, also tapped (9)
- 57 Ship's officer taking cereal to Western Australia in container (9)
- 58 Turin also developed this very early European culture (9)
- 59 Clergyman produces chapters about the old city on a retainer (9)
- 60 Stubbs, for example, reveals soul with catalogue (9)
- 62 Act of evading hallucination when losing head (7)
- 65 Old master has to draw game (7)
- 66 Roughly-veined, curly-leaved plant (6)
- 67 Old woman to bear, protect and pamper baby? (6)
- 68 Sound of Air Force heard passing through openings under bridge (6)
- 73 It helps, much of the time (3)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday January 14, 1991. Entries should be sent to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. Winners and solution will be published on Saturday January 19.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**SOLUTION TO NO 2370 (yesterday's concise crossword answers)**  
 ACROSS: 1 Purify 4 Pluto 8 On the contrary 9 Politic 10 Puke 11 How 13 Eden 14 Ha-ha 17 Gut 20 Hive 22 Rustler 24 Under-employed 25 Heavy 26 Cringe  
 DOWN: 1 Prompt 2 Rattled 3 Fretting 4 Path 5 Usage 6 Oxygen 7 Conch 12 Whistler 15 Halcyon 16 Though 18 Tramp 19 Trudge 21 Vodka 23 Fray

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear tomorrow

## ACROSS

- 1 US Civil War soldiers' song (4,6,5,8,4)
- 15 Continue (5,2)
- 16 Ultimate proof doubt (11)
- 17 Fierce storm (7)
- 18 Ballet "scissors" leap (9)
- 19 Very angry (5)
- 20 Rubaiyat poet (4,7)
- 22 Takeaway shopping (4-3-5)
- 23 Filth (4)
- 24 Covered up (6)
- 28 Quick Japanese dishes (9)
- 30 Vague (7)
- 31 Special delight (4,5)
- 33 Needing exertion (9)
- 36 Painter's studio (7)
- 38 Wire holder (9)
- 40 Earth (5)
- 41 D-Day US east beach (5)
- 42 Lashed (7)
- 43 Boiled rice dish (7)
- 45 Books checker (7)
- 47 Remove gun from setting (7)
- 48 Hooked claw (5)
- 49 Terrible (5)
- 51 Give in (9)
- 53 Astonish (7)
- 54 Anguish (9)
- 55 Deadline (4,5)
- 57 Turns into (7)
- 59 Hearthglow (9)
- 61 Unfair (6)
- 63 Pretensions (4)
- 64 Harsh brilliance (7,5)
- 69 Rigid packing foam (11)
- 70 Spiked flower (5)
- 71 Decreased in worth (4,5)
- 72 Folklore small zone (7)
- 74 Aila (5,6)
- 75 Mark Antony's wife (7)
- 76 Laudatory hymn (6,2,4,3,4,2,6)

## DOWN

- 1 Evil (6)
- 2 Inconsistent (7)
- 3 Without pleasure (9)
- 4 Quasimodo (9,2,5,4)
- 5 First/last phase seas (4,5)
- 6 Own kind eaters (9)
- 7 Inequitable result (11,2,7)
- 8 Evening party (6)
- 9 Ill will (9)
- 10 Compressor (9)
- 11 Regular admission (6)
- 12 Chewing chicle (3)
- 13 Monocular (3-4)
- 14 Small French café (9)
- 21 Flier (7)
- 25 Fundamentals (10)
- 26 Garter Order motto (4,4,3,3,1,5)
- 27 Getting reading for rocket launch (9,3,5-3)
- 29 "Black African" (5)
- 32 Acclaim (5)
- 34 Respond (5)
- 35 Hero's lover (7)
- 36 Pallid complexion (7)
- 37 Corrected (7)
- 38 Canoe oars (7)
- 39 Wildly extravagant (10)
- 44 Surplus (5)
- 46 Pasta wheat (5)
- 50 Spree (5)
- 52 Joins up (7)
- 55 Phoney (7,2)
- 56 Exchanges (5,4)
- 57 Underwriter's risk list (9)
- 58 Tanzania national park (9)
- 59 Last effort (5,4)
- 60 Lively French dance (2,7)
- 62 Hooded Arab cloak (7)
- 65 Largest Israel city (3,4)
- 66 Plaster of Paris mineral (6)
- 67 Small cupboard (6)
- 68 Stay (6)
- 73 Body fluid tube (3)

## Layering odds on a sure way to shine

In the wake of new year resolutions - and a certain dissatisfaction with the image in the mirror, following days of over-indulgence - comes the desire for an immediate new look. Unfortunately, this is the wrong month for such a whim; there will be little to inspire in the fashion departments until the January sales have made space.

There is one sure way, however, to update or even transform an image overnight, and that is to book in with a hairdresser on the cutting edge of fashion. Even more than toting the right sartorial silhouette, sporting a spot-on coiffure is the best cure for dowdiness and depression. It does not have to be a painful experience, given the range of perfectly proper fashion options for the chic head of 1991.

For one thing, long hair is unusually to the fore; the house models and muses have been taking to the catwalks in beehives

**Anthea Gerrie finds out what the best-dressed heads are wearing for the new year**

and other tall hairdos of Marie Antoinette proportions. If you do not want to cut, you can get away today with putting up the ends and back-combing the top to giddy heights.

Braver souls will opt for the scissors, however, for like jacket lengths, cutting techniques change subtly from season to season; a good reason to seek out the stylist who attends hair fashion seminars, rather than the lazy practitioner who traps his clients in a perpetual time-war of coiffure.

This year, smart snippers are focusing on layering; a technique some among them mastered during their basic training in the Sixties.

"The high hair on the catwalks is sending out strong messages of an early Sixties revival," says Trevor Sorbie, the nearest thing British hairdressers have had to a guru since Vidal Sassoon left for Hollywood. He is just old enough to remember back-combing his first beehives as a teenager working in his father's shampoo-and-set parlour.

"We are creating heavy, layered cuts reminiscent of the old Sassoon look; the Urchin and the Greek Goddess are both coming

back." Surprisingly, however, he reports there is more dressing than cutting going on in his own Covent Garden salon.

"Long hair that's styled - put up in elaborate ways - feels very right for now. Today's juniors have not been much exposed to long hair during their apprenticeship, which is a weakness of modern training, but ours are growing their own and learning fast. My own favourite styling tool these days is heated rollers."

John Frieda, the Mayfair hairdresser who was master of the structured coiffure in the Eighties, sees hair becoming soft and tousled, framing the face while bouncing high on the crown. He says the right tools and products are the keys to achieving a style which may take its inspiration from the Sixties, but emerges as a definite look for the Nineties.

Everything happens in the last five minutes before hair is dry, Frieda says. "With the new layered cuts you blow your hair almost dry, then apply a spray-on styling lotion to the roots and lift sections of the hair all over the crown on to jumbo rollers. Blast with the blow-dryer, then secure the root with a clip while you dress and make-up. After removing the rollers you don't brush out the hair, simply separate the curls loosely. The hair must have height, but still look natural."

There is a definite Sixties inspiration behind the versatile new look from star cutter Nicky Clarke, who has created a style reminiscent of the bobs of the Julie Christie era: "It has an Irma La Douce cheekiness about the short back and lots of heavy fringing and longer bits falling around the face."

In many regards, he asserts, it is pure Nineties: "Completely different from the strong structured styles of the Eighties, it is spontaneous and intended to lie however it wants to go, not be brushed into place and sprayed to stay put. It uses modern products like wax to give texture, rather than mousse to build body at the roots; body is no longer the point."

At the salon of court coiffeur Neville Daniel, stylist John Barrett sees more of a late Fifties than an early Sixties revival, a look that conjures images of Gina Lollobrigida and vintage Elizabeth



Above: high hair by Nicky Clarke, short at the back and layered for texture

Taylor. "Short, shiny and layered are the key words," he says. "After layering all over the head, it will be necessary to apply a strong setting lotion to create movement, and probably a vegetable colour to add shine, condition and depth to the hair - which should preferably be dark all over."

A dose of rich conditioning colour is certainly a highly appropriate way of restoring shine and depth of tone to hair dried and dulled by wind and winter - and it can bring an instant new look to those who are not ready for radical re-styling.

The basic choice lies between a few well-chosen highlights around the hairline - an anti-ageing procedure that can be more effective than a facelift - and going deeper or warmer to enrich all-over tone. Fifties and Sixties-style tinting involved applying heavy block colour all over the head, a technique Sorbie believes is



Left: bouncy cut for healthy-looking hair, by the London stylist John Frieda

shade are usually the best starting point." For 1991 he sees shades of extraordinary richness, ranging from Inca gold to burnished copper, warm spice to baroque bronze - and a very high degree of shine, made possible by technical advances in easy-to-apply vegetable dyes which can be custom-mixed for the wearer and packaged to take home for topping up colour between salon visits.

Acknowledging the high level of investment in time and money that salon colouring commands today, his point of view is hard to reject. "Women who spend hundreds on a new dress often remain blind to the power of hair colour to enhance their skin tone and bring out their eyes," Calvin says. "But ignoring the importance of the right shade is sheer folly; hair is the only accessory you wear 24 hours a day, and the one that commands by far the most attention."

returning, and which the Lollobrigida/burnished-brunette look seems to demand.

Colour authority Daniel Galvin, however, intends to fight any retrograde movement into the bad old days, before the concept of creating movement in hair by weaving in several different shades was invented.

"Hair dyed the same shade at

root and end is an old-fashioned concept which will win no compliments for the wearer - even when it achieves the objective of getting rid of grey," he says. "I never completely conceal grey, but at the same time I do not believe the most flattering hair is necessarily the one granted by nature; soft lights one or two shades paler than the natural

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THEATRE

# Whether 'tis nobler, or not

On examining the New Year's Honours list, Benedict Nightingale finds evidence that the theatre remains under-represented

About time, too. After all, Gielgud, Richardson, Guinness got their knighthoods while they were in their forties, and Olivier when he was a mere 39. Until yesterday, when the 51-year-old Ian McKellen at last received the same award, it was beginning to look as if their successors were being deliberately snubbed. Even now, his belated promotion serves largely to expose a continuing disregard of other formidable candidates for theatrical honours. It is as if someone up there thinks the post-Larry, post-Ralph generation of actors is made of commoner fibre.

But nostalgia for the past should surely not blind us to the successes of the present. British dominance of the English-speaking theatre has never been greater. This may be explained in many ways, from the strength of our national companies to the weakness of Broadway. But it could never have happened without performers of the calibre of the 65-year-old Alec McCowen, the 60-year-old John Wood and the 52-year-old Derek Jacobi, as well as McKellen. Yet the more internationally respected our theatre has become, the less national recognition our players seem to have received.

Perhaps it does not matter very much. Paul Scofield is generally assumed to have turned down a knighthood, and others, too, may be afraid of becoming isolated on some remote official plinth. It would, for instance, be as hard to imagine a Dame Vanessa Redgrave as a Dame Rosa Luxemburg or a Lord Trotsky — or as a John Gielgud, Hero of Socialist Labour. Yet, in the theatre, are our quaint, courtly titles so different in the purpose they serve from those which the most diehard leftist would presumably approve?

English-Arthurian or Soviet-Homeric, they are still simultaneously a reward, a seal of approval and an encouragement to others. They publicly declare, not merely that a standard of excellence has been attained by one individual and set for everybody else, but that the community as a whole places a high value on the theatre. For us British, they proclaim that the Irvings, Oliviers and McKellens are as much a part of our island history as the Gladstones and Wilsons; that they belong to a tradition it is important to perpetuate. In bald financial terms, the more knights there are, the harder it is for a government to treat the theatre ungenerously. Even the Workers' Revolutionary Party might like that.

But recently the trouble has been less theatre people refusing

honours, more the powers-that-be withholding them. Add McKellen to the venerable Gielgud, Guinness, Hordern, Ustinov and Mills, throw in the director Peter Hall, and the list of theatrical knights is complete. Their female counterparts have a slightly fresher look. Judi Dench and Maggie Smith have joined Peggy Ashcroft and Wendy Hiller as Dames of the British Empire, and are each a few years short of drawing their old age pensions. But as pantheons go, that is hardly very crowded. Our theatrical Olympus still has a depopulated look, and surely needs further replenishment.

But who should follow? McKellen up the slopes? There are plenty of contenders, starting with one whose claim is as strong but more seriously overdue. In 1990 alone, Alec McCowen reminded the world of his range by relearning St Mark's Gospel and taking it from Britain to America, then returning home to play first a grumpy academic in an adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's *A Single Man*, then a serenely batty priest in Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*. But nobody who has seen him as the angry Alceste in Molière's *Misanthrope* and the benign Philip in Christopher Hampton's *Philanthropist*, a sad schoolmaster in *The Browning Version* and an unrepentant Hitler in *The Portage to San Cristobal de A.H.*, could doubt either his emotional versatility or his technical finesse.

Then there is Jacobi, so inventive and energetic as Sartre's *Kean* in 1990, and John Wood, recently a majestic Solness in Ibsen's *Master Builder* and a wonderfully volatile, unpredictable King Lear. If distinguished work on the classical stage counts for much, as it has since Irving, these two would seem hardly less deserving of a handle than McKellen. Has there been a wittier Benedict than Jacobi's or a more complex Brutus than Wood's?

Michael Gambon, 50 years old but a late starter, probably needs more time to establish his classical credentials, as does Antony Sher, not to mention Kenneth Branagh. Sir Albert Finney has a solid, aldermanic ring, though. And should not year after year of skilful, unshowy service at the National earn the 62-year-old Michael Bryant more recognition than he has yet received? Should Donald Sinden, once a marvellous Malvolio and a fascinating Lear, be denied a knighthood just because *Private Eye* has decided him for wanting one? The honour might even persuade him to re-



To consider: Diana Rigg and Alec McCowen, in *The Misanthrope* at the National Theatre, 1973

nounce rubbishy farces, such as the current *Order of the Serpent*.

There are many other names worth considering, female as well as male. Vanessa Redgrave, probably the greatest living actress, may prefer to resist the blandishments of the establishment — but what of Dorothy Tutin or, despite her possible transformation into an MP, Glenda Jackson? Or Beckett's favourite actress, Billie Whitelaw, or the underrated Barbara Jefford, or Irene Worth, American born but still a holder of the CBE? The patronage secretary at 10 Downing Street, the key figure in these arcane affairs, should also be keeping an eye on Janet Suzman, Diana Rigg, Susan Fleetwood, among others.

Nor should he be thinking of performers only. Presumably Peter Brook, like Scofield, prefers to remain a mister. Nothing else can justify the neglect of the greatest British director since — well, at least since Sir Tyrone Guthrie. But how many companies must Trevor Nunn successfully run, how many more hyper-hits must he stage, before he gets the summons to the Palace? And why has no contemporary playwright been called to follow Finero

and Henry Arthur Jones, Barrie, Coward and Rattigan?

This is particularly odd, given the renaissance of British drama that began with Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* in 1956. Harold Pinter's radical politics might prevent him accepting the official imprimatur of the originality of his work has earned; but that is no reason why it should not be offered. It is encouraging that McKellen can crusade very publicly against Clause 28 and for homosexual rights, and still be given a knighthood. Clearly, something has changed since the day when it could be seriously claimed that Richardson got his title before the divorced Olivier and the bachelor Gielgud because he was a respectable married man.

In any case, there is nothing particularly controversial about our other leading dramatists: Alan Ayckbourn, who has written 38 plays and created a fine rip in Scarborough; that mandarin wit, Tom Stoppard; or, for that matter, Osborne himself. His output may have declined in quality and quantity, but nobody can dispute either the excellence of much of his earlier work or his historical importance. Stoppard himself has said he would never have turned to the theatre but for the excitement generated by *Look Back in Anger*. The same is indirectly true of many other dramatists.

That is exactly the kind of accomplishment knighthoods exist to reward. If X or Y did not exist, would the theatre be significantly weaker, would the quality of our national life be poorer? Imagine Osborne and Pinter had never been born. Imagine a Britain without Jacobi or Nunn. The case is made.

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

## At last, ringing in some of the new

NEW music enjoys a healthy informal dissemination in cassette form among composers, and of course the BBC still provides, if less comprehensively and challengingly than 20 years ago, a service to the rest of us. It is important that these avenues stay open, but it is important, too, that contemporary music be properly represented on record, since not only is the compact disc the main means of musical communication, but records in shops can reach a different audience from that for Radio 3. The CD is also a mixed-media art form in its own right, giving the composer, in the case of contemporary music, a chance to speak through words, pictures and choice of programme as well as directly through the music itself.

Just a few years ago the amount of new British music available on record was distressingly small; now, quite suddenly, the case is very different, thanks partly to the enthusiasm of several smaller companies, but thanks also to a few enlightened moves from the giants. Within the past year alone, EMI has released the first record of Robert Saxton's music, following up its useful Dominic Muldowney album, while Virgin has put Trevor Wishart's Vox cycle of vocal-electronic music on disc.

Meanwhile Unicorn-Kanchana is continuing its commendable attention to Peter Maxwell Davies, re-releasing on CD the two big pieces of chamber music he wrote for the Fires of London: *Ave Maris Stella* and *Image, Reflection, Shadow* (UKCD 2038), and issuing for the first time his chamber opera, *The Martyrdom of St Magnus* (DKP(CD) 9100). This is sung by the soloists of the excellent Music Theatre Wales production, conducted by Michael Rafferty, and the team's theatrical experience shows: the performance is vivid and thrilling.

Yet more Davies can be had on a Collins Classics record (10952) devoted to the scores he wrote in 1971 for the Ken Russell films *The Devils* and *The Boyfriend*, with the welcome addition of a 1960s classic, the *Seven In Nomine*. The *Boyfriend* music is a high-spirited, not to say frenzied, bash at Sandy Wilson's bash at the popular music of the 1930s: an achievement as exultantly camp as Russell's film. Nor are the short movements from *The Devils* as subtle in their treatment of heresy and hysteria as Davies's larger works of this period — or even

such smaller ones as the septet of arrangements and new contributions to the curious English tradition of instrumental fantasias on the "In Nomine" from Taverner's Trinity mass (teasingly the insert leaflet leaves one to find out for oneself which movements are original Davies). The performances, by Aquarius under Nicholas Cleobury, are sound.

This brings the number of Davies CDs firmly into double figures, and one could wish for similar exposure of other composers, especially Harrison Birtwistle. His monumental *...agm...* has recently been reissued (Erato/Warner 2292 45410-2), but much else remains to be done.

THE signs, though, are positive, the year ending with the first records devoted to Michael Finnissy and Simon Bainbridge. In both cases the choice of works is apt. Finnissy himself plays his *English Country-Tunes* (Ecetera KTC 1091), a set of eight pieces better regarded as a continuous work lasting for more than 50 minutes. The finely tuned violence and virtuosity of the music, and of the performance, come across powerfully, but so too does the quiet, luminous and yet equally compelled music that intervenes. This is a turbulent, ranging, dissatisfied and, at times, intensely sensual treatment of folksongs, but affection and respect can breed those qualities: one begins to understand why Percy Grainger is so important to Finnissy.

The Bainbridge disc (Continuum CCD 1020) rescues Walter Trampler's recording of the marvellous haunting *Viola Concerto* he wrote in his early twenties and adds the orchestral *Fantasia* which, for all its greater panache, is similar in its superb fashioning of sound and the imaginative journeying it embodies. *The Concertante in moto perpetuo*, a gambol as much against as on the sunlit beach of American-style minimalism, is a witty and beautiful encore, brilliantly played by Nicholas Daniel and conducted, as is the *Fantasia*, by the composer.

Of course there should be more: more CD releases of Weir, more of Ferneyhough, some Casken, as well as more Birtwistle. But at least the record shop shelves are beginning to reflect the present strength and variety of British composition.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

TELEVISION

## Once is never enough

DURING the current festive season some readers may be experiencing disturbing symptoms. Their past life may seem to be flashing before their eyes. In the vast majority of cases this implies not impending death but the onset of another batch of television repeats.

However, some have recently argued that death and repeats are not entirely separate. In response to a study of the tendency for the suicide rate to rise during the festive season, a spokesman for the Samaritans, Paul Farmer, claimed that repeats and reviews of the year should take some of the blame. Under their retrospective pressure, he said, people are made to contemplate the past and face up to their failures.

The link between repeats and suicide remains unproved, to put it mildly. Just one objection, using the same survey's own figures, would be that the suicide rate is low during the summer, when most repeats are actually broadcast. Nevertheless, it is a recurring phenomenon that the most common subjects of complaint by television viewers are not, as some pressure groups might lead one to believe, sex, violence or political bias but bad language and repeats. This itself is something of a mystery since, in the words of Rosemary Newall of the BBC research department, "People may complain about them but they are happy enough to watch them. You could repeat shows like *Only Fools and Horses*, *Birds of a Feather*, and *Blackadder* till the cows come home and they'll still get audiences of over ten million."

Repeats may once have seemed symptomatic of television planners' disdain for their audience, but they are now a part of the medium's culture, even its creativity. The double-showing of *Neighbours* every weekday at lunchtime is regarded as a masterpiece of scheduling, if the vast audiences accorded to it in vast audiences accorded to it in the ratings (and to *EastEnders*, *Coronation Street* and others) are taken seriously. This is only viewed sceptically, this is only because it is suspected that many people watch the broadcasts twice. Double showings during the week are now routine for programmes as new routine for programmes as such as *The Trials of Life* or *Twin Peaks* and there is no evidence that viewers switch off. Clive James's *Saturday Night Clive*

Repeats of television programmes may be among the most important aspects of broadcasting, or so argues Sean French



Not an immediate success: Monty Python's Terry Jones

regularly achieves a higher rating when repeated on a weekday.

Some repeats tinker with the form of the original programme. Michael Frayn's Emmy-winning film, *First and Last*, was re-screened at Christmas in two parts. The impact of the comedy drama *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* was coarsened when the original hour-long programmes were sliced to fit a half-hour slot. By contrast, Troy Kennedy Martin's nuclear thriller, *Edge of Darkness*, gained when its six episodes were re-edited into three two-hour films.

But these are technicalities. A more interesting argument would be that there are too few repeats on television. After 40-odd years of broadcasting, the British companies have an archive of which the surface has barely been scratched. One obvious possibility is the entertaining sort of programme like *1001 Nights of TV*, which is being broadcast on Channel 4 today. This will include items such as dogs on television, trailers, early appearances by the now famous, and the first episodes of programmes such as *Z-Cars* (the tape of which, incidentally,

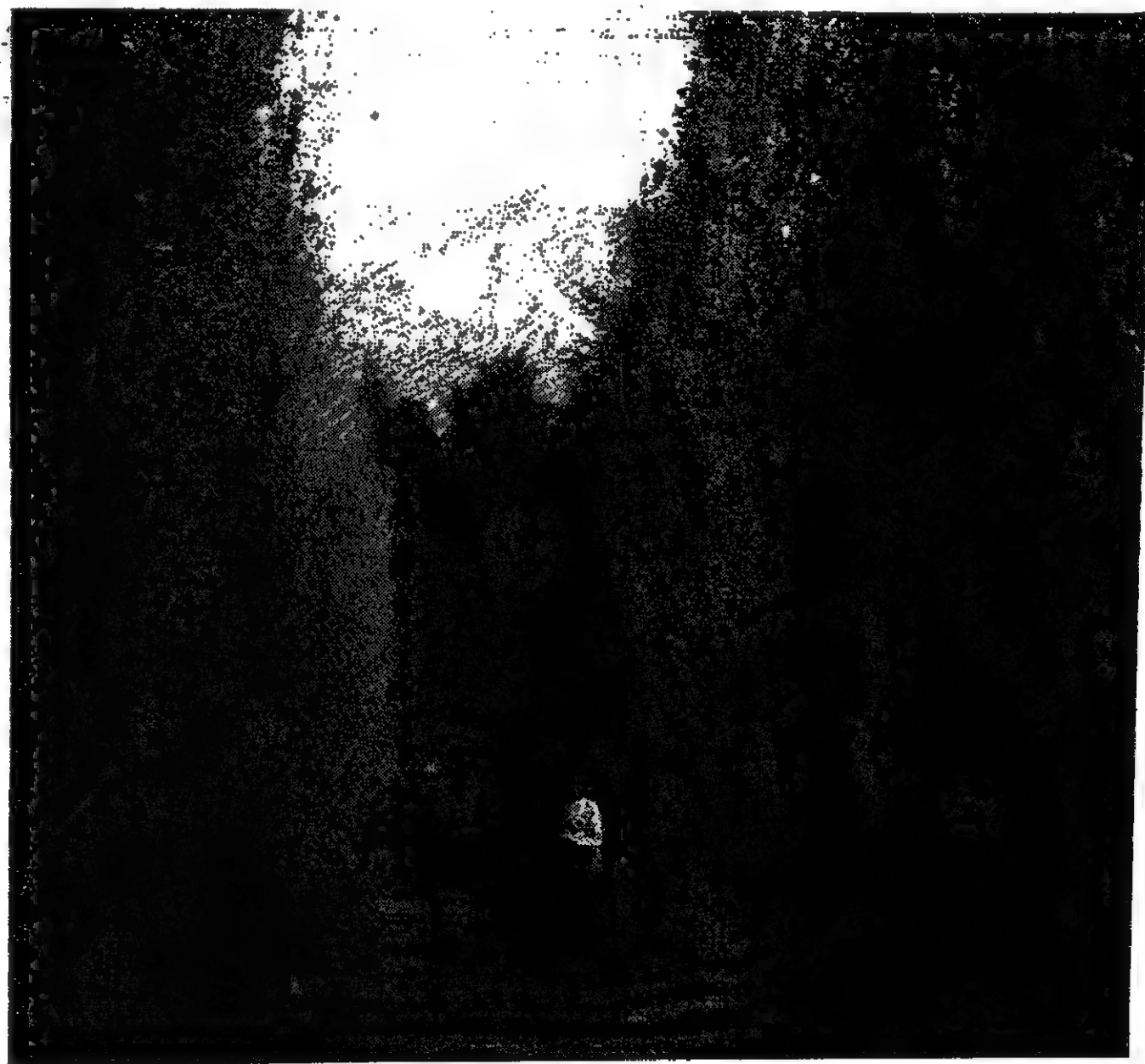
was found not at BBC Television Centre but on an army base in Cyprus, which presumably is what saved it from being wiped).

The Samaritans' objection to repeats is based on the notion that the effect of a broadcast item remains the same when it is repeated. In reality, the archives are simply raw material that can be manipulated and ordered like anything else. Meanings change. Many programmes, or even whole series, appeared to little effect at first and only reached their full impact when they were repeated. *Star Trek*, notoriously, was axed at the end of its second series. Repeats and worldwide sales turned it into a phenomenon. Similarly, *Monty Python's Flying Circus* first went out almost unnoticed.

A repeat can also be an act of irony. Even the potter's wheel is now camp. You can buy it on video. The whimperings of Andy Pandy and the burlings of *The Flowerpot Men*, despised by most children when first broadcast, have been a substantial moneyspinner for BBC Enterprises when sold on video. Even obscenity mellowed over the years. When the Sex Pistols swore at Bill Grundy on television in 1976 it seemed scandalous. Now it is just quaint social history, and Grundy's pyrrhic response, "You're even drunker than I am", is a treasured quotation.

Television is a permanent part of our collective memories. Earlier cultures may have had similar shared experiences. But we are not restricted to reminiscing about the time that the baby elephant went wild in the *Blue Peter* studio; we can watch the tape again.

Those of us between the ages of 20 and 40 may be the only generation for which this is precisely true. Because of the restrictions of technology, we saw mostly the same programmes at the same time. Together, we saw Angela Rippon's earring fall off during a live news broadcast. Now the process of television has fragmented for good. Video recorders and a proliferation of channels have given control back to viewers. The next logical step must be greater access to television's archives, which is really access to our own past. These are memories, not repeats.



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## All too faithful adaptation

MARILYN KINGSLEY

Mad but moribund: the Mad Hatter (Roger Kain), Alice (Taryn Kay) and the March Hare (Graham Ashe) in *Alice in Wonderland*

## THEATRE

Alice in Wonderland  
Mermaid

HARDLY have the house-lights faded than there materialises a young man in a spruce blue jacket that makes him look like a steward on a cruise ship. While a backcloth plastered with trees flaps behind him, he proceeds to sing rather hoarsely of golden afternoons, contented dragonflies and the awfulness of growing up. It is not the most promising of openings to an *Alice* that oddly proclaims itself "the first traditional version to be seen in the West End since 1959".

Still, what follows proves at times almost too faithful to Lewis Carroll. The Mad Hatter's tea-party may be all very well on the page. On the stage it turns out to

be about as amusing as being trapped at dinner between neighbours interested only in their inscrutable theories about the ozone layer. No wonder the children around me began bumping up and down in their seats, humming, counting their teeth, and generally behaving as if they had been taken for a fun afternoon in a physics lab.

The unidentified adapter was no doubt right to resist turning the original into what the programme calls "a political tract or a surrealistic hallucination". Christ, it is hardly the time to have Queen Victoria shouting "off with their heads" or Alice herself swallowing LSD and dreaming of pothead caterpillars. On the other hand, a "traditional" interpretation can easily become a moribund one. The challenge facing *Cavalcade* Theatre, as the company at the Mermaid calls

itself, is to invest *Alice* with the freshness, energy, humour and charm the National has brought to *The Wind in the Willows*; and on a bill of the budget.

That is not as virtuous as it sounds, because those virtues are not in themselves expensive. Indeed, an *Alice* which relied wholly on a good cast's unpretentious professionalism would almost certainly be more enjoyable than one dependent on forklift trucks, helicopters and laser technology. But Carol Crowther's production often seems no better than amiably amateurish. For instance, it does not greatly matter if the Mock Turtle looks more like a dilapidated langur with a Falstaffian belly, as is the case here. If his and everyone else's singing of Carroll's verse lacks either particular finesse or special panache, it matters much more.

Taryn Kay's Alice does not altogether evade the danger faced by any adult actress playing a little girl, that of becoming prettified and arch. Nor do some of those around her seem to realise that it is less important to look vaguely like Tenniel's drawings than inventively to embody Carroll's fantasies. As it is, the only full-blooded performances come from Paul Parham's pantomime-dame Duchess, whirling round her baby as if spoiling for a fight in the dorm, and Ruth James's majestically complacent Queen of Hearts.

The afternoon I saw her, James was credible enough to provoke an indignant squeak of "nah, off with your head" from a tot in the third row. On the other hand, the laughter that greeted this interpolation was louder than any aroused by Carroll's lines. For any traditionalist, that is not happy news.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## NEW RELEASES

**ALMOST AN ANGEL** (PG) Cinedrome. Directed by Paul Verhoeven, a professional thief who is forced to do good deeds. Packed with action, it's a good idea. Director: John Carroll. With: Linda Kozlowski, Michael Keaton, Andrew McCarthy, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Cinedrome: Baker Street (071-572 9772), Fulham Road (071-570 2626), Oxford Street (071-589 0816).

**FANTASIA** (U) Disney's famous adaptation of the classic children's story, the story of a young girl who is taken to a magical world. With: Mandy Patinkin, Andrew McCarthy, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Cinedrome: Baker Street (071-572 9772), Fulham Road (071-570 2626), Oxford Street (071-589 0816).

**THE MARCH HARE** (U) Three-year-old version of Peter Rabbit, a classic children's story. With: Michael Keaton, Linda Kozlowski, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Cinedrome: Baker Street (071-572 9772), Fulham Road (071-570 2626), Oxford Street (071-589 0816).

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## CURRENT

**AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE** (12) Jim Carrey's excellent film about the New Zealand artist J.M.W. Turner. Cinedrome: Baker Street (071-572 9772), Fulham Road (071-570 2626), Oxford Street (071-589 0816).

**FLATLINE** (12) Hugh Grant, Michael Keaton, and Linda Kozlowski. Cinedrome: Baker Street (071-572 9772), Fulham Road (071-570 2626), Oxford Street (071-589 0816).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Kingston's assessment of films in London (where indicated) on release across the country.**

**NOTE: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times today.**

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## RADIO

The Green Man  
Revisited  
Radio 3

LAST year bowed out with seven pips from the BBC's midnight time signal instead of the customary six, the extra second being an adjustment for the benefit of "atomic" time. I believe that something rather more sinister was afoot, a minor echo of the horror convention by which the church clock chimes 13 at the instant the night-dread heroine, unadvisedly enough, enters the graveyard. But then I had been listening to *The Green Man Revisited* (Radio 3), a quizzy, shaggy-dog story rehearsed by Kingsley Amis "because I think it raises some very basic questions

about what life is all about and to what extent we run our own lives". The inelegance of that statement was amply matched by the unkindness of the story he had to tell, and a true story at that: neatness and completion belong to fiction. Three years after publishing his novel *The Green Man*, Amis and his then-wife stopped off one hot August evening at a country hotel similar to the establishment so splendidly mismanaged by Albert Finney in the recent television serial.

As in the E. Nesbit fable, a kind of half-magic was at work, the names of the barman, the waiter and the proprietor being versions of their fictional counterparts. There was no evidence that the real Allington was an adulterous weak but he did have a teenage daughter prone to somnambulism, and it was in the interests of her safety that Amis resolved to

spend the night engaged in a kind of amateur spook-watch.

This was where the thread of the narrative began to unravel, and it was all the more disturbing for being so calmly related. As though following a script, a slow-moving young girl and a menacing collection of foliage performed a midnight duel outside the hotel while the astonished author wondered what manner of devilment his imagination had loosed upon the sleeping world. His wife, however, claimed that at the crucial moment he had been pursuing not psychic phenomena outdoors but an altogether more physical urge in the comfort of their bedroom.

And here, a literate trick-cyclist might suggest, was the missing bit that "explains" the novel, with the fictional Allington as a victim of displaced incest libido, compelled to "rescue" his daughter from the spiky embrace of rampant Nature.

A police surgeon, on the other hand, might well call for a retrospective blood test to determine the exact level of alcohol in the authorial veins.

Still, this was more than an autobiographical footnote; it was a radio classic, and the only jarring note is that it came from 1972. Forgive me for proposing yet again that the BBC needs a tocap in its collective posterior, but the number of productions for which one willingly foregoes a night at the dog-track is in inverse proportion to the total volume of airwave traffic, a growth industry. In 1990 my car was caught chiefly by *The Forsyte Chronicle*, by *Archie*—*The King* at least in those passages where it most nearly approaches the form of oratorio—and by the stiletto wit of Victor Lewis-Smith.

MARTIN CROPPER

## DANCE

The Nutcracker  
Covent Garden

ALTHOUGH *The Nutcracker* is having a long run at Covent Garden, the Royal Ballet is putting out so many casts that lead dancers have an average of only two or three performances. Some are utilised only once, including Jonathan Burrows as Drosselmeyer.

This is a shame, because his is a particularly well-conceived interpretation, wry and sharp at once, with a sad, twisted smile. He puts such hypnotic intensity into his gestures and expression during the transformation that it looked

much more spectacular than Julia Trevelyan Oman's drab and cluttered designs deserve.

This was his debut in the role, accompanying the first appearance as the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince by Belinda Hatley and Errol Pickford. Her first leading role since joining the company two years ago confirmed the promise of crisp, elegant dancing, he danced if anything with too much verve, letting the effort show through his daredevilry.

Another pair of young newcomers to these roles, Darcey Bussell and Stuart Cassidy, proved more gracefully extended in the adagio, more easily sparkling in their solos. It seems that all the leading men in this production are allowed their own variations on

the choreography. Cassidy's encheats at the end of the coda, where most others do pirouettes, were especially impressive.

The best cast of all in the leading roles has been Nina Ananiashvili and Alexei Fadeychev, guests from the Bolshoi Ballet. She is the most "western" of Moscow ballerinas, combining Russian spaciousness and musical feeling with a carefully composed neatness and precision. He partners her with old-fashioned elegance and dances with a light ease which almost belies the immense strength of his technique.

Another guest couple was Christina Johnson and Ronald Perry from the Dance Theatre of Harlem. They are good dancers, for whom a classical pas de deux

holds no problems, and it was good to see the Royal Ballet overcoming its apparent belief that black faces do not fit in the classics. But well as they danced, they did not outshine the best of the local casts, and in those circumstances, is bringing them to New York really justified?

If a company as strong as the Royal Ballet cannot sell out so popular a work without guest stars, there must be something wrong with its marketing. And it looks like mismanagement to go to the expense of bringing in stars for one act at the end of the evening, when it would be better value to cast them in more substantial roles.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## WORD MATTER

Answers from page 16

WAYEY

(a) Or it can be spelled in English way, the snow-globe, *Claire hyperborea*, from the Amerindian Cree language *wayew* a goose: "Here the snow globe or white waxes were resting in tens of thousands, so that the shores of the great lake were feathered and snowbound with them."

DIES

(a) The wild dog or jackal of North Africa, from the Arabic *di* a wolf, *Canis anticus*: "The di of the Arabs is a lurking danger in the slums and suburbs of the city."

SPRENT

(b) Sprinkled, the past participle of the obsolete Old English verb *sprenge* to sprinkle: "What hour the dewy morning's infancy spreads the red thighs of the humble bee."

DRAIL

(b) The iron bow of a horse-drawn plough from which the traces draw, probably a rustic combination of *dragle* and *trail*: "The drail, by which they are now commonly attached, has teeth to set the furrow wider or narrower."

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

**JULIAN CLARY** is CAMBRIDGE BY THE ALPS

30 JAN FOR 20 PERS ONLY

Chess Club, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

## ENTERTAINMENTS

**OPERA & BALLET**

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, 071 572 9772

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL BALLET, 071 572 9772

ROYAL ORCHESTRA, 071 572 9772

ROYAL CHORUS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL DANCE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL MUSIC, 071 572 9772

ROYAL THEATRE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL COMEDY, 071 572 9772

ROYAL TRAGEDY, 071 572 9772

ROYAL HISTORY, 071 572 9772

ROYAL SCIENCE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL ARTS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL LETTERS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL NUMBERS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL GAMES, 071 572 9772

ROYAL SPORTS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL RELIGION, 071 572 9772

ROYAL POLITICS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL MILITARY, 071 572 9772

ROYAL NAVAL, 071 572 9772

ROYAL AIR FORCE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL ARMY, 071 572 9772

ROYAL MARINE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL COAST GUARD, 071 572 9772

ROYAL CUSTOMS, 071 572 9772

ROYAL EXERCISE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL MARCH, 071 572 9772

ROYAL DANCE, 071 572 9772

ROYAL MUSIC, 071 572 9772

ROYAL THEATRE, 071 572 9772

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## THEATRES

AMERICAN THEATRE, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN COMEDY, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN TRAGEDY, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN HISTORY, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN SCIENCE, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN ARTS, 071 572 9772

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AMERICAN MARCH, 071 572 9772

## STARS

AMERICAN THEATRE, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN COMEDY, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN TRAGEDY, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN HISTORY, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN SCIENCE, 071 572 9772

AMERICAN ARTS, 071 572 9772

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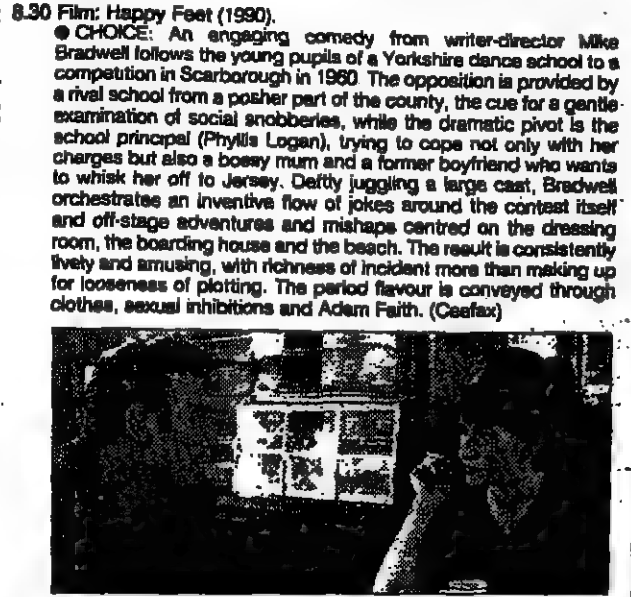
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AMERICAN EXERCISE, 071 5



**7.00** Hello Spencer. Puppet series (r) **7.25** Playdays **7.45** The Angel and the Soldier Boy. Animated story with music by Clannad (r) **8.10** Film: The Bugs Bunny and Road Runner Movie (1979). A compilation of some of the best Bugs Bunny and Road Runner, rabbit boy and his friendship with a Japanese shopkeeper. The tale of a 10.35 Puddles Up. The second best of the TV dancing champion from the River Tyne in the TV dancing championship. **11.00** Film: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1949). Delightful musical based on the Mark Twain tale of a 20th-century blacksmith (Bing Crosby) who is transported back to Camelot under the rule of King Arthur. Filled with easy-going charm, good humour and magical songs. With William Bendix and Rhonda Fleming. Directed by Tay Garnett **12.45** Three Lazy Mice. Cartoon **12.55** News with Laurie Meyer. Weather **1.00** Neighbours. (Ceefax) **1.25** Film: Escape to Alcatraz (1979). With 1991 only hours old the BBC wastes no time in filling its programme schedule with a truly awful film. A massively stilted cast looks forlorn as POWs kept on a Greek island during the second world war, attempting to escape with the aid of a sympathetic commandant (Roger Moore) and a bold resistance leader (Telly Savalas). David Niven, Elliott Gould and Claudia Cardinale play the obvious roles. Directed by George Panamiers. (Ceefax) **3.20** Miss Marple: The Moving Finger. Agatha Christie whodunit with Joan Hickson as Miss Marple, called in to the village of Lymington by an old friend to investigate a spate of poison pen letters (r). (Ceefax) **4.55** Final Score. Sports results with Ralph Deller **5.10** News with Laurie Meyer. Weather **5.20** Regional News and Sport **5.25** Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) **5.45** Film: Space Camp (1986). At Space Camp teenagers are trained like real astronauts while their parents watch on TV at home. Then the kids get a chance to test out their skills when some of them are accidentally launched into space, coinciding neatly with a take-off in the film's entertainment value, which plops a little up to this point. Directed by Harry Winer. (Ceefax) **7.30** EastEnders. Early London soap. (Ceefax) **8.00** A Question of Sport. David Coleman fires the questions in the long-running sports quiz. Regular team captains Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont are joined by England rugby union star Rob Andrew, five-times world darts champion Eric Bristow, Britain's female field athlete of the year Fiona May, and England footballer Gary Lineker. (Ceefax) **8.30** Film: Happy Feet (1990). © CHOICE: An engaging comedy from writer-director Mike Bradwell follows the young pupils of a Yorkshire dance school to a competition in Scarborough in 1960. The opposition is provided by a rival school from a posher part of the county, the cue for a gentle examination of social snoberies, while the dramatic pivot is the school principal (Phyllis Logan), who is charged but also a bawdy mum and a former boyfriend who wants to whisk her off to Jersey. Deftly juggling a large cast, Bradwell orchestrates an inventive flow of jokes around the contest itself and off-stage adventures and mishaps centred on the dressing room, the boarding house and the beach. The result is consistently lively and amusing, with richness of incident more than making up for looseness of plotting. The period flavour is conveyed through clothes, sexual inhibitions and Adam Faith. (Ceefax)



Phyllis Logan is more than just the school principal (8.30pm)

**10.00** News with Laurie Meyer. (Ceefax) Weather **10.15** Film: The Lost Boys (1987). Imaginative and sometimes amusing teenage vampire movie. A family moves to Santa Clara where the local biker gang are all vampires. Elder brother Mike (Jason Patric) is soon lured to a wild cave party. Sibling Sam (Corey Haim) is more sensible, however, and joins forces with kids who run a comic shop, to get out the germs, holy water and wooden stakes. Directed by Joel Schumacher. (Ceefax) **11.50** Film: Carry On at Your Convenience (1971). Lavatorial humour set appropriately and with admirable self-mockery in a inventory history. Directed by Gerald Thomas. (Ceefax) **12.00am** Weather

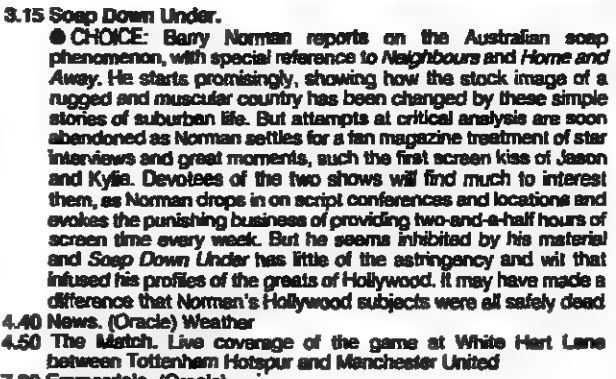
**8.00** English Towns. Richmond in north Yorkshire was founded some 400 years before its namesake in Surrey. This morning it is toured by Alec Clifton-Taylor (r). (Ceefax) **8.30** Wildlife Showcase: Rivers to the Sea. A look at the rivers of Atlantic Canada which fill up every year with fish on their way to spawn. Last in the series (r). (Ceefax) **9.00** Film: Tarzan and the Amazons (1945). Johnny Weissmuller stars as the man of the jungle, who, in this adventure, promises to keep the whereabouts of a group of Amazon warriors secret when some greedy European explorers seek them and their treasure. This exciting Tarzan picture marks Brenda Joyce's debut as Jane. Directed by Kurt Neumann **10.15** Animation Now. Stanley and the Dinosaurs. Music and comedy from prehistoric times. **10.30** Glasgow: A City Reborn. From its economic slump of the early Sixties, Glasgow has been regenerated to become the European City of Culture 1990. German film-maker Christian Bauer takes a look at the city's resurgence and talks to its many prominent citizens (r) **11.15** New Year's Day Concert. Richard Seltzer introduces music from the Strauss family and Mozart from the Musikverein, Vienna. With the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Claudio Abbado, and the Ballet of the Vienna State Opera. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 **12.30** Racing from Cheltenham. Julian Wilson and Peter Scudamore introduce live coverage of the Steel Plate Hurdle (12.45), the Steel Plate and Sections Young Chasers Qualifier (1.20), the ASW Handicap Steeplechase (1.55), and the ASW Handicap Hurdle (2.30) **2.45** Laurel and Hardy in Early to Bed (b/w) **3.05** Film: The Sheep Has Five Legs (1954, b/w). Hilarious French comedy starring one of France's favourite comedians, Fernandel. The success of a village reunion depends on the healing of a 20-year-old family row between a father and his five sons. Fernandel plays all the leads with Louis de Funès as his five sons. The film is directed by Henri Verneuil. With English subtitles. **4.45** Vespers in Venice. John Eliot Gardiner conducts Monteverdi's Vespers of the Blessed Virgin from St Mark's, Venice. With the Monteverdi Choir, the London Orlatory Junior Choir and the English Baroque Soloists (r) **6.35** St Sunday Special. Julian Tait introduces skit-jumping from Glasgow's tenement houses. **7.10** Cricket: Australia v England. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the one-day international in the World Series Cup from Sydney



Sarah Pickering plays the seamstress Little Dorrit (8.00pm)

**8.00** Film: Little Dorrit (1987). Alec Guinness heads this all-star epic version of Dickens's classic tale told from two different points of view. The first part, *Little Dorrit*, centres on Arthur Cleggman, who returns from China to an England he has not seen for 20 years. He is amazed to find that his crippled mother has taken on a seamstress known as Little Dorrit (Sarah Pickering), and starts to delve into her background. It transpires that she has spent much of her life living in the terrible Marshalsea debtors' prison where her father has been kept for the past 25 years. Cleggman decides to help Little Dorrit and her father but finds the task leads him into trouble with the authorities. Concludes tomorrow at 7.25pm. Directed by Christine Edzard. (Ceefax) **10.50** A Life in Pieces. Sir Arthur Street-Grebling (Peter Cook) chooses the seventh of his 12 presents for Christmas **10.55** The Hangover Show. Peter McCarty adapts this television entertainment from his successful Edinburgh show with a mixture of personal anecdote and pub philosophy about what makes people drink, with handy hints and tips about how to deal with a bad head the day after. (Ceefax) **11.40** Film: Rebecca (1940, b/w). Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier star in Alfred Hitchcock's polished adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's best-selling novel. Madam de Winter, a powerful and wealthy businesswoman returns home to her Cornish estate with her shy new bride. But the second Mrs de Winter soon finds herself in company with the spirit of Madam's first wife Rebecca, who died in mysterious circumstances. With George Sanders and Judith Anderson. (Ceefax) **1.45am** Weather

**6.00** TV-am 9.25 Disney Cartoons **8.40** Film: The Miracle of the White Stalkions (1982) starring Robert Taylor and Lilli Palmer. During the Nazi occupation of Vienna in the second world war the owner of the Spanish school leads his horses to safety. Directed by Arthur Hiller **11.30** Run the Gauntlet: Alpine Challenge introduced by Ross King and Alison Holloway from the Swiss Alps **12.30** News and weather **12.35** Film: Star Trek - The Motion Picture (1979) starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy. The Enterprise crew reunites to fight off a fatal force field heading towards Earth. Directed by Robert Wise. (Oracle) **12.55** Barry Norman Investigates Australia's super-scope (3.15pm)



Barry Norman Investigates Australia's super-scope (3.15pm)

**3.15** Soap Down Under. © CHOICE: Barry Norman reports on the Australian soap phenomenon, with special reference to *Neighbours* and *Home and Away*. He starts promisingly, showing how the soap image of a rugged and muscular country has been changed by these simple stories of suburban life. But attempts at critical analysis are soon abandoned as Norman settles for a fan magazine treatment of star interviews and great moments, with the first screen kiss of Jason and Kylie. Devotees of the two shows will find much to interest them, as Norman drops in on script conferences and locations and even the publishing business of providing two-and-a-half hours of screen time every week. But he seems inhibited by his material and *Soap Down Under* has little of the astuteness and wit that infused his profiles of the greats of Hollywood. It may have made a difference that Norman's Hollywood subjects were all safely dead **4.40** News. (Oracle) Weather **4.50** The Match. Live coverage of the game at White Hart Lane between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United **7.00** Emmerdale. (Oracle) **7.30** Jimmy's at New Year. How staff and patients cope with the new year's joy and heartache at Leeds's St James's Hospital **8.00** The Bill: Grief. There is trouble for everybody at Sun Hill station this Christmas. Superintendent Brownlow is being nagged by his wife. (Oracle) **8.30** The Curse of Mr Bean. Rowan Atkinson stars as the wordless and accident-prone Mr Bean **9.00** E.C.I.D.: Christmas Spirit. The first of a welcome new series of the comedy drama starring John Bird and Alfred Molina as former Scotland Yard policemen now resident on the Costa Brava. (Oracle) **10.00** News. (Oracle) Weather **10.15** Shelley. Hywel Bennett stars as the comic misfit **10.45** First Tuesday: M25 - the Magic Roundabout. © CHOICE: Paul Beniff, who made a prize-winning documentary on the M25, brings his camera crew to another motorway, concentrating on the 17 miles of the M25 in Hertfordshire which are said to be Europe's busiest stretch of road. His film is a montage of incidents, grim as well as funny, presented in fly-on-the-wall style with no commentary. A police inspector comments that there is no such thing as an accident, only people making mistakes. The film bears him out, cataloguing such black comedy as a man trying to retrieve a batch of invoices which have blown across the road and a hitch-hiker walking his dog along the hard shoulder. Police patience in face of such follies is impressive. But the film also contains its share of tail-backs, pile-ups and bodies being out from wreckage and should be enough to persuade most of us to keep well away from the M25 between Rickmansworth and South Uxbridge. (Oracle) **11.45** Film: Tom Curran (1988) starring Paul Newman, Julie Andrews and Lila Kedrova. A low-key Hitchcock thriller about an American scientist defecting to the Soviet bloc **2.10** Film: The Only Way Out Is Dead (1970) starring Stuart Whitman, Sandy Dennis and Burl Ives. A respected surgeon is made redundant from his hospital and unwittingly takes on a job offered to him by a tycoon who owns a mountain empire named Science City. Directed by John Trent **3.45** Film: Blue DeVille (1986) starring Jennifer Nyman. Offbeat and entertaining drama which follows the life of a girl who becomes tired of being pigeon-holed as a "nice girl". Directed by Jim Johnston **5.35** Cartoon Time (r) **5.55** ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

**6.00** Bobby Jones Gospel (r) **6.30** The Art of Landscape. Footage of the natural world accompanied by soothing music **7.00** Heathcliff. Animated adventures of a street-wise moggy **7.30** Dennis. Cartoon **8.00** CrossTalk. The central issues of 1990 are discussed by a studio of 13- to 16-year-olds (r) **9.00** Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line **9.15** Countdown Masters presented by Richard Whiteley **9.25** Sesame Street. Educational entertainment for pre-school children **10.25** Batman and Robin (b/w). Episode eight **10.45** The Adventures of Tintin **11.00** Things To Come. Melvyn Bennett and Penny Southgate with more predictions about the future (r) **11.30** Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. The sportsman captained by Sam Torrance with guest Kevin Keegan take on the entertainers led by Ronan Rafferty with guest Rick Wakeman **12.30** Going Loco: The Final Puff. Highlights from the *Going Loco* season shown earlier this year on Channel 4 **2.10** Film: How To Steal a Million (1966) starring Peter O'Toole and Audrey Hepburn. A private detective (O'Toole) is mistaken for a burglar by the daughter of an art forger (Hepburn) and is hired by her to steal a bogus Celine from a Paris gallery. The grace and charm of the two stars coupled with the deft and stylish direction of William Wyler result in a sophisticated suspense story **4.30** Countdown. Richard Whiteley presents the second quarter-final in *Countdown's* Champion of Champions competition **5.00** You're the Top: The Cole Porter Story. The life of the composer, lyricist, musical perfectionist and hell-raiser is told through those who knew him, including including Bob Hope, Cyd Charisse and Douglas Fairbanks Jr **6.00** Crystal Maze Special. The adult physical and mental game show was a big hit with younger viewers and, in this one-off special, school children who won a competition are given their chance to play the game. Hosted by the frenetic Richard O'Brien **7.00** News and weather coverage by All Rivers Run II. In the first episode of this Australian drama Branton, still on the run, finds comfort and security in the arms of a lonely widow, while Cyrus persists in his wooing of Della. (Teletext)



Alison Steadman as an archetypal Fifties ad-woman (8.00pm)

**8.00** 1001 Nights of TV. © CHOICE: Another raid on the archives from the team responsible for last year's three-hour spectacular, *The A-Z of TV*, uses the same winning formula of celebrity presenters and thematically arranged clips. The scope and flavour of the enterprise may be gauged from the appearances of Gary Lineker and Bobby Charlton to host the section on television football, Adam Faith (youth culture) and Rory Bremner (catchphrases). There are a few small-scale appearances by the almost unrecognisable Sean Connery, Michael Caine and Tom Jones, while Alan Bennett looks at television favourites that no longer exist because someone wiped the tape. But the star is the splendid Alison Steadman, who plays five television types including a Fifties ad-woman and the ludicrous victim of a fly-on-the-wall documentary. Michael Palin presides, the producer was Linda Luck and the director Steve Connolly. See page 13 **11.00** Film: The Professionals (1986). A double-bill of comic films by Mel Brooks starts with this cult classic. Zero Mostel stars as a corrupt Broadway producer who enlists the services of a neurotic accountant (brilliantly played by Gene Wilder) to help him produce a mega-hit on Broadway that will make them both rich. He finds a script entitled *Springtime for Hitler* written by a Nazi (Kenneth Mars) and turn it into a musical performed by a host of failed actors. The production looks set to be a sure-fire disaster, but the results are completely unexpected. More camp than a row of tarts and more than a little outrageous, but outrageously funny and highly acclaimed - Mel Brooks won an Academy Award for his hilarious story and screenplay **12.40am** The Twelve Chairs (1988). Zany comedy when skintight Ippolit (Ron Moody) discovers that his mother-in-law has revealed the location of her jewels to someone else. Directed by Mel Brooks. Ends at 2.25

## ANGLIA

An London special: 2.00am Film: The Remains of Mr. Phipps 3.00am Film: Dr. Phipps Returns Again

## GRAMPIAN

An London special: 2.00am Film: The Remains of Mr. Phipps 3.00am Film: Dr. Phipps Returns Again

## SCOTTISH

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## FBC

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Life at Emmerdale: the pleasant gets the once over (7.00pm)

**6.55am** Weather and News **7.00** Morning Concert: Britten (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) (New Year Concert, Cambridge) **7.10** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **7.20** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **7.30** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **7.40** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **7.50** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **8.00** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **8.10** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **8.20** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **8.30** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **8.40** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **8.50** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **9.00** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **9.10** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **9.20** The Choir: The Choir (A New Year Concert, Cambridge) **9.30** 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# Fears of disaster as Moscow goes into 1991 without economic plan

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union enters the new year today without an economic plan or a budget for the first time since 1928. The lack of a plan holds out at best the prospect of a chaotic switch to a market economy, at worst the threat of paralysed industries, rampant inflation and widespread unrest.

Izvestia said yesterday: "Our country has reached the point beyond which economic chaos begins." It said that predictions of an internal budget deficit for 1991 of 250 billion roubles (£2.50 billion at the official exchange rate) were not exaggerated and described the forecast as a "signal of an imminent catastrophe, the consequences of which will defy description. We will be drowned in a flood of worthless money and our economy will be destroyed for good."

There are three areas where the absence of an agreed budget could make itself felt almost immediately: transport, the press and, most of all, heavy industry. The underground railway systems, which carry millions of people to work in Moscow and other big Soviet

cities, are threatened with closure because of disagreement between the local authorities and the centre over funding. Transport ministry officials say that income from fares supports the Underground for only 12 days of every month. The remainder has to be subsidised.

Workers on the Moscow Underground have announced a strike for January 10 unless their pay and jobs are guaranteed, but the central authorities may try to prevent any strike by suspending operation of the Underground until agreement is reached. Any suspension will have an immediate effect on the capital's industry, institutions and services.

A number of official newspapers face closure unless there is central agreement on paper prices. Their subscription rates were set on the assumption of a continued state subsidy for newspaper. Subsidies will continue, but their size has not been fixed. The alternative is for the papers to buy at "negotiated" prices, as the unofficial press has done, but this would plunge them into loss. A Soviet

newspaper employs between five and ten times more staff than a British paper, many of whom could be out of work within weeks.

The gravest difficulties face heavy industry. Managers at every level are used to consulting "the plan" at every step and contacting their ministry in Moscow for instructions. As a contingency, industry has been told to follow last year's plan until this year's is set, assuming government orders for the first quarter at the same level as last year.

The supply system, however, has deteriorated steadily in recent months. Even if managers persist with the myth that last year's plan can be transferred to this year, workers may be less compliant, especially if they suspect that there will be no money to pay them at the end of the month.

The choices facing the central authorities if no satisfactory budget agreement is reached soon are stark. They can stop paying employees of central institutions, which would bring much of the country to a halt. They can issue new money to pay people who are not producing, so fuelling inflation, or they can introduce an emergency regime which would put soldiers in the factories and mean universal rationing.

At the other extreme, the authorities can throw up their hands in despair and delegate most of their fiscal powers to the republics, so giving them much of what they want. Even then, however, unless the republics are prepared to pay far more to the centre than they have so far offered, the central bureaucracy, hospitals, schools and, above all, the army will have insufficient funds to continue.

The Soviet bodies concerned with the budget are expected to resume discussions soon after the new year break. Parliament will reconvene on January 8. But the nub of the problem is the relationship between the centre and the country's 15 constituent republics. At present, the three Baltic republics are refusing to contribute to the central budget. Last week the Russian Federation said that it intended to cut its contribution by four-fifths and Uzbekistan is reported to have threatened a unilateral increase in the wholesale price of cotton — its chief crop — unless it receives its full subsidy from the centre.

Behind the scenes, other republics, including Kazakhstan, are setting conditions of their own. If, as seems likely, they follow Russia's example, then the Soviet treasury's income will be reduced to between 40 and 50 billion roubles, to fund a spending programme of more than 260 billion.

Letters, page 9

## Europe to challenge new American luxury tax

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community is preparing to challenge the luxury sales tax being introduced in the United States today. European-made jewellery, watches, and expensive fur and leather coats will all be taxed more heavily, but the European car industry will be worst hit.

Officials of the EC trade and export department are consulting legal advisers to find out whether the tax, imposed by President Bush as part of his October budget package, can be challenged under international trade rules. The EC is expected to raise the matter with American officials during discussions on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

British car dealers are afraid of the tax's effect on their sales and see it as a piece of backdoor protectionism by the Bush administration. The tax will add 10 per cent to the price of a car costing \$30,000 (about £15,000). A Jaguar XJ6 saloon will cost about \$1,500 more, and a \$220,000 Rolls-Royce Corniche III will go up by \$19,000. Other European manufacturers with strong markets in the United States will suffer as badly.

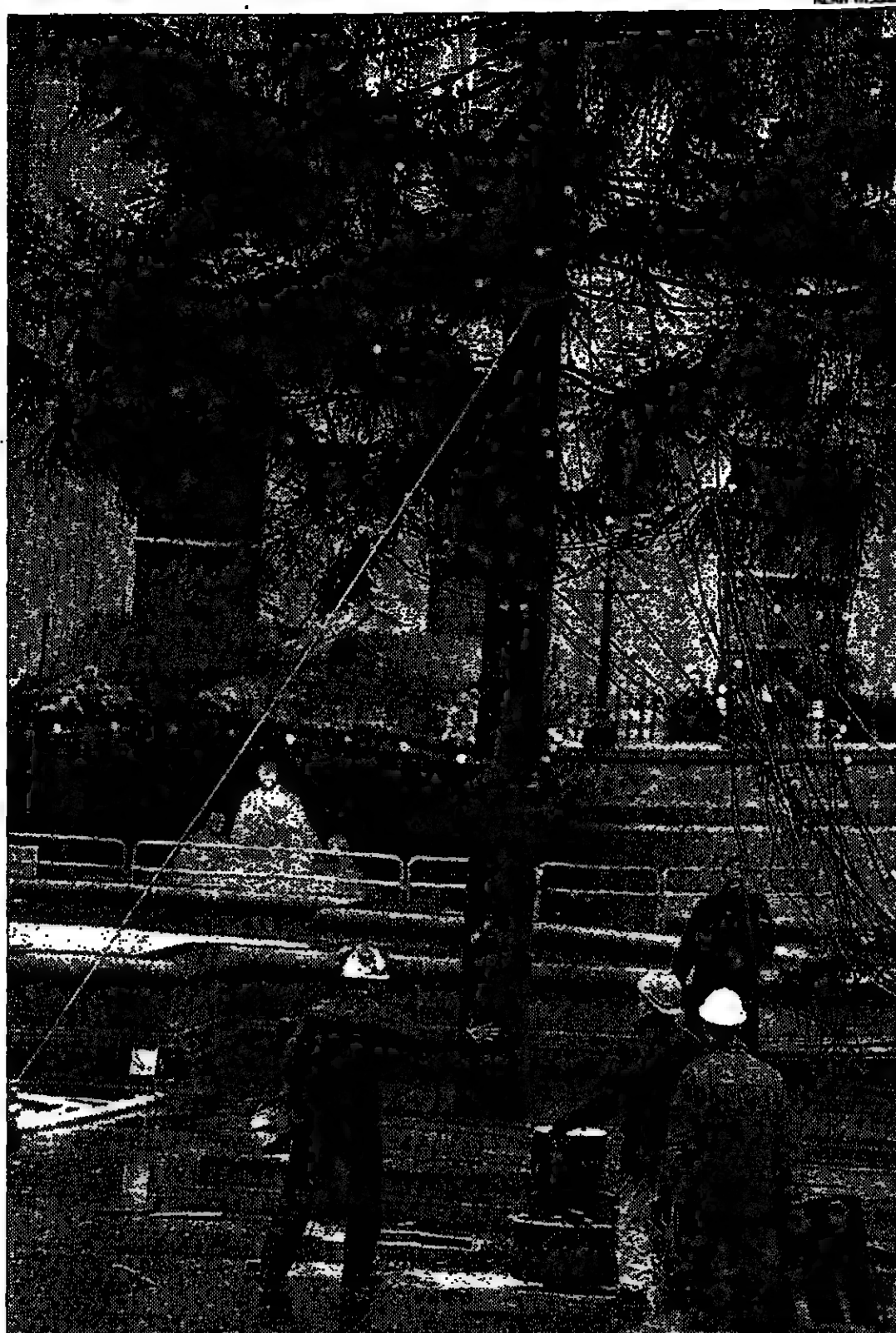
The European motor manufacturers point out that barely any of the cars made by America's big three — Ford, General Motors and Chrysler — are over the \$30,000

threshold. The result is that sales of European luxury marques, which account for only 5 per cent of the American market, will contribute 80 per cent of the \$2 billion revenue expected from the new tax over five years.

Martin Bennett, an English Jaguar dealer in Nashville, Tennessee, said: "It's clearly unfair to have what amounts to a tiny number of customers paying such an exorbitant proportion of a new tax." Fears about the effect of the tax have surfaced in recent weeks with Jaguar and Porsche taking large newspaper advertisements encouraging customers to buy before the tax is imposed. Jaguar is authorising \$5,000 discounts on most of its range.

Dealers representing the European manufacturers have also formed a coalition to demand abolition of the tax, or a lower threshold. Rolls-Royce, however, is apparently unconcerned. The company, which sells a third of its cars to the US, said: "Our customers are not price-sensitive. If you can afford a Rolls-Royce, you can probably afford the increase."

For Mr Bennett and the Jaguar dealers, the position is likely to be more critical. America remains Jaguar's most important market, but sales have slumped from a peak of 24,000 to 18,000 this year.



Rescue mission: the damaged Trafalgar Square Christmas tree undergoes emergency surgery

## Trafalgar Square protester is jailed

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who vented his spleen on the Norwegian criminal justice system by taking a chainsaw to the 75ft Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, London, was jailed for four months yesterday by Bow Street magistrates. The Trafalgar Square tree is an annual gift from Norway.

Patrick Harwood-Duffy, aged 36, angered by his treatment at the hands of the Norwegians for heroin smuggling, had already cut halfway through the tree trunk when he was stopped by a policeman armed with a truncheon and protected by a metal crowd barrier. The officer emerged unscathed although his truncheon, made of African hardwood, was damaged.

As Harwood-Duffy appeared at Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday to admit £3,200 worth of criminal damage, the Department of the Environment mounted a rescue operation before last night's celebrations in the square. The tree was lifted from its base and tree surgeons removed the bottom 8ft. It was slid back into position as 1,800 police began to take up their positions for the new year celebrations.

In court Paul Ozin, for the prosecution, said Harwood-Duffy, an unemployed heating engineer, was arrested after police saw him attacking the tree with a chainsaw at 2.35am yesterday.

John Hardy, defending, said Harwood-Duffy was released from prison in August after 4½ years of a seven-year sentence for heroin smuggling. "This action was designed as a protest against the injustice he feels he received," said Mr Hardy. "He decided to commit the offence as soon as he was released from jail in August. He still has three brothers in jail in Norway, and his case is being brought before the European Court of Human Rights." Harwood-Duffy, living in Brixton, south London, remained silent throughout the hearing.

## Snow and ice bring hot year to a chilly end

Continued from page 1

lands were still badly affected by wintry weather yesterday. Late yesterday the A82 road between Fort William and Crianlarich at Glencoe was open and passable with care. The A9 at Drumochter Pass was opened for a short time to allow a convoy through. It was expected to be shut last night. Northern Coastguard warned divers not to travel after dark unless absolutely necessary.

Two railway snowploughs tried to keep the main southbound line between Inverness and Perth open. However 9ft feet drifts near Dalwhinnie and snowfalls of about four feet at Tomatin caused problems. One train from Inverness to London was delayed for 90 minutes due to damage to its engine.

Official figures show that parts of Britain

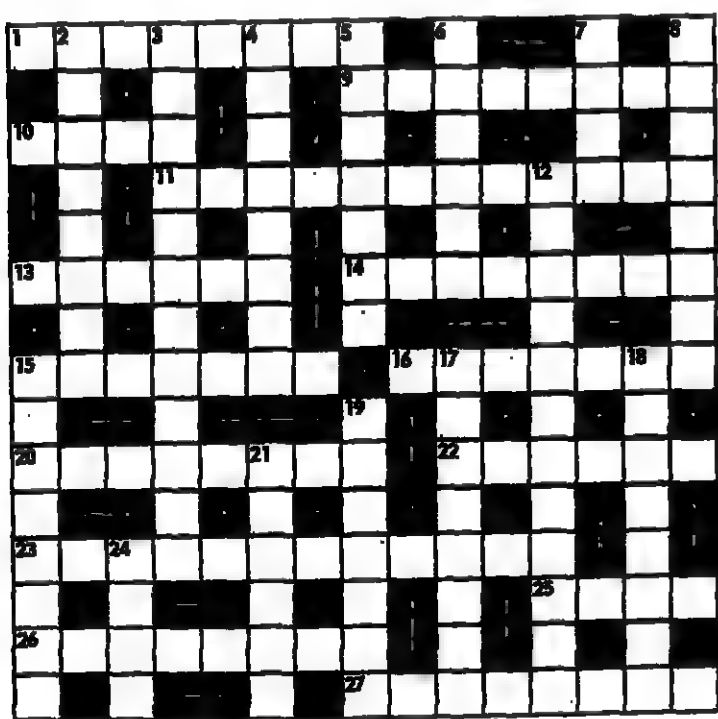
suffered their coldest December for nine years although overall 1990 has been one of the hottest years since records began in 1659. Final London Weather Centre figures are due to be calculated next week. December, however, saw the first widespread snowfall for three years, bringing chaos to parts of northern England, Wales, the Midlands and south-west in the second week of the month. Snow drifts were several feet high and thousands of homes were without electricity. Three days later, the eastern coast of Britain was lashed by gales and towering waves. After a brief lull in the middle of the month, high winds and heavy rain returned, leaving many homes without power on Christmas Day and causing widespread damage to buildings and trees. However, the London Weather Centre said the overall

temperature for December was just 0.5C below normal. In addition, 1990, which began with fierce storms, saw Britain's hottest ever temperature, 37.1C, recorded at Cheltenham on August 2.

Mrs Joyce Harris, aged 75, from Dunsford, Devon, who was knocked unconscious when she fell into a ditch while taking her dog for a walk, was found when the dog's eyes were seen in the beam of a searching police helicopter.

A woman who went missing after her car crashed into a ditch five days ago was found dead in a wood by police yesterday. Traces of blood in the vehicle had led police to believe that Mrs Christine Dobson, aged 54, of Kings Worthy, Hampshire, might have been injured and wandered away dazed.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,491



- ACROSS**
- Restricting speed lessens stresses (8)
  - Ancient city in charge, not a part of modern one (3,5)
  - Staunch support for Flora (4)
  - Three points about a good chue — it's cryptic or it smells (3,2,7)
  - Accumulated points — twenty-five hundred (6)
  - Light causes disappointment (4-4)
  - Be noisy about leader returned in election (7)
  - Shock absorber for engineers demonstrating wear (7)
  - It goes round the arm (8)
  - Head will, they say, settle down (6)
  - In the race, the places are put in order (12)

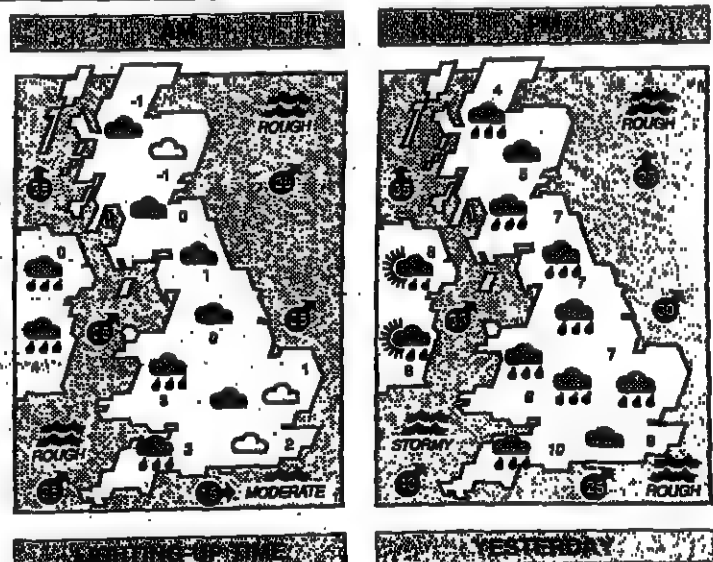
**DOWN**



- You need transport here, Doctor — Jack's caught a whale (5,3)
- One feels at ease here, in and out (4,4,4)
- Burn slowly, beginning to smoke and turn to dust (8)
- Like out porridge (7)
- Go straight for a mile after road excavation starts (6)
- Signal to stop one out of the running (4)
- Foreign exchanges are next to lower pound (8)
- Clematis providing accommodation for several nests (3,4,5)
- The Left declared an end to the Canal (4,4)
- Top and bottom of sail fixed in boat (8)
- Prize editing — epilogue's shorter by a page (8)
- A game little creature (7)
- Shortened version of bible may reveal God (6)
- Some Icelandic spirit (4)

Jumbo Crossword, page 12

Rain over Northern Ireland and Wales will spread quickly northeast across the rest of the United Kingdom. The rain will be prolonged and heavy particularly in more western areas. Eastern Scotland and the northern isles of Scotland will start bright with showers before the rain spreads north. It will be mild in the south and windy with gales in many areas. Outlook: Wind and rain.

MIDDAY: (between 12-1pm)				EVENING: (between 6-9pm)			
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	15	SW	100	London	10	SW	100
Edinburgh	10	W	100	Edinburgh	5	W	100
Belfast	12	SW	100	Belfast	7	SW	100
Cardiff	14	SW	100	Cardiff	9	SW	100
Manchester	13	SW	100	Manchester	8	SW	100
Sheffield	12	SW	100	Sheffield	7	SW	100
Nottingham	11	SW	100	Nottingham	6	SW	100
Leeds	10	SW	100	Leeds	5	SW	100
Sheff	9	SW	100	Sheff	4	SW	100
Cardiff	8	SW	100	Cardiff	3	SW	100
London	7	SW	100	London	2	SW	100
Edinburgh	6	SW	100	Edinburgh	1	SW	100
Belfast	5	SW	100	Belfast	0	SW	100
Cardiff	4	SW	100	Cardiff	-1	SW	100
Manchester	3	SW	100	Manchester	-2	SW	100
Sheffield	2	SW	100	Sheffield	-3	SW	100
Nottingham	1	SW	100	Nottingham	-4	SW	100
Leeds	0	SW	100	Leeds	-5	SW	100
Sheff	-1	SW	100	Sheff	-6	SW	100
Cardiff	-2	SW	100	Cardiff	-7	SW	100
London	-3	SW	100	London	-8	SW	100
Edinburgh	-4	SW	100	Edinburgh	-9	SW	100
Belfast	-5	SW	100	Belfast	-10	SW	100
Cardiff	-6	SW	100	Cardiff	-11	SW	100
Manchester	-7	SW	100	Manchester	-12	SW	100
Sheffield	-8	SW	100	Sheffield	-13	SW	100
Nottingham	-9	SW	100	Nottingham	-14	SW	100
Leeds	-10	SW	100	Leeds	-15	SW	100
Sheff	-11	SW	100	Sheff	-16	SW	100
Cardiff	-12	SW	100	Cardiff	-17	SW	100
London	-13	SW	100	London	-18	SW	100
Edinburgh	-14	SW	100	Edinburgh	-19	SW	100
Belfast	-15	SW	100	Belfast	-20	SW	100
Cardiff	-16	SW	100	Cardiff	-21	SW	100
Manchester	-17	SW	100	Manchester	-22	SW	100
Sheffield	-18	SW	100	Sheffield	-23	SW	100
Nottingham	-19	SW	100	Nottingham	-24	SW	100
Leeds	-20	SW	100	Leeds	-25	SW	100
Sheff	-21	SW	100	Sheff	-26	SW	100
Cardiff	-22	SW	100	Cardiff	-27	SW	100
London	-23	SW	100	London	-28	SW	100
Edinburgh	-24	SW	100	Edinburgh	-29	SW	100
Belfast	-25	SW	100	Belfast	-30	SW	100
Cardiff	-26	SW	100	Cardiff	-31	SW	100
Manchester	-27	SW	100	Manchester	-32	SW	100
Sheffield	-28	SW	100	Sheffield	-33	SW	100
Nottingham	-29	SW	100	Nottingham	-34	SW	100
Leeds	-30	SW	100	Leeds	-35	SW	100
Sheff	-31	SW	100	Sheff	-36	SW	100
Cardiff	-32	SW	100	Cardiff	-37	SW	100
London	-33	SW	100	London	-38	SW	100
Edinburgh	-34	SW	100	Edinburgh	-39	SW	100
Belfast	-35	SW	100	Belfast	-40	SW	100
Cardiff	-36	SW	100	Cardiff	-41	SW	100
Manchester	-37	SW	100	Manchester	-42	SW	100
Sheffield	-38	SW	100	Sheffield	-43	SW	100
Nottingham	-39	SW	100	Nottingham	-44	SW	100
Leeds	-40	SW	100	Leeds	-45	SW	100
Sheff	-41	SW	100	Sheff	-46	SW	100
Cardiff	-42	SW	100	Cardiff	-47	SW	100
London	-43	SW	100	London	-48	SW	100
Edinburgh	-44	SW	100	Edinburgh	-49	SW	100
Belfast	-45	SW	100	Belfast	-50	SW	100
Cardiff	-46	SW	100	Cardiff	-51	SW	100
Manchester	-47	SW	100	Manchester	-52	SW	100
Sheffield	-48	SW	100	Sheffield	-53	SW	100
Nottingham	-49	SW	100	Nottingham	-54	SW	100
Leeds	-50	SW	100	Leeds	-55	SW	100
Sheff	-51	SW	100	Sheff	-56	SW	100
Cardiff	-52	SW	100	Cardiff	-57	SW	100
London	-53	SW	100	London	-58	SW	100
Edinburgh	-54	SW	100	Edinburgh	-59	SW	100
Belfast	-55	SW	100	Belfast	-60	SW	100
Cardiff	-56	SW	100	Cardiff	-61	SW	100
Manchester	-57	SW	100	Manchester	-62	SW	100
Sheffield	-58	SW	100	Sheffield	-63	SW	100
Nottingham	-59	SW	100	Nottingham	-64	SW	100
Leeds	-60	SW	100	Leeds	-65	SW	100
Sheff	-61	SW	100	Sheff	-66	SW	100
Cardiff	-62	SW	100	Cardiff	-67	SW	100
London	-63	SW	100	London	-68	SW	100
Edinburgh	-64	SW	100	Edinburgh	-69	SW	100
Belfast	-65	SW	100	Belfast	-70	SW	100
Cardiff	-66	SW	100	Cardiff	-71	SW	100
Manchester	-67	SW	100	Manchester	-72	SW	100
Sheffield	-68	SW	100	Sheffield	-73	SW	100
Nottingham	-69	SW	100	Nottingham	-74	SW	100
Leeds	-70	SW	100	Leeds	-75	SW	100
Sheff	-71	SW	100	Sheff	-76	SW	100
Cardiff	-72	SW	100	Cardiff	-77	SW	100
London	-73	SW	100	London	-78	SW	100
Edinburgh	-74	SW	100	Edinburgh	-79	SW	100
Belfast	-75	SW	100	Belfast	-80	SW	100
Cardiff	-76	SW	100	Cardiff	-81	SW	100
Manchester	-77	SW	100	Manchester	-82	SW	100
Sheffield	-78	SW	100	Sheffield	-83	SW	100
Nottingham	-79	SW	100	Nottingham	-84	SW	100
Leeds	-80	SW	100	Leeds	-85	SW	100
Sheff	-81	SW	100	Sheff	-86	SW	100
Cardiff	-82	SW	100	Cardiff	-87	SW	100
London	-83	SW	100	London	-88	SW	100
Edinburgh	-84	SW	100	Edinburgh	-89	SW	100
Belfast	-85	SW	100	Belfast	-90	SW	100
Cardiff	-86	SW	100	Cardiff	-91	SW	100
Manchester	-87	SW	100	Manchester	-92	SW	100
Sheffield	-88	SW	100	Sheffield	-93	SW	100
Nottingham	-89	SW	100	Nottingham	-94	SW	100
Leeds	-90	SW	100	Leeds	-95	SW	100
Sheff	-91	SW	100	Sheff	-96	SW	100
Cardiff	-92	SW	100	Cardiff	-97	SW	100
London	-93	SW	100	London	-98	SW	100
Edinburgh	-94	SW	100	Edinburgh	-99	SW	100
Belfast	-95	SW	100	Belfast	-100	SW	100



London 4.32 pm to 7.25 am Bright 4.42 pm to 7.49 am Edinburgh 4.19 pm to 8.14 am Manchester 4.30 pm to 7.55 am Preston 5.00 pm to 7.51 am				Temperatures at midday yesterday, c. cloud: 1 F, rain: 3, sun.						
	Burn times	Burn rates		Belfast	C 36	F 50	C 50			
	1.8	7.55 pm		Birmingham	38	52	58			
				Birmingham	36	50	56			
				Cardiff	37	51	57			
				Edinburgh	35	49	54			
			Glasgow	34	48	51				
Moon sets 5.01 am				Midnight						
Moon rises 8.22 pm				Midnight						
										
TODAY										
AM		HT	PM	HT	TODAY		AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.41	6.8	2.4	7.0	Liverpool	11.15	9.8	11.45	10.15	
Aberdeen	1.10	4.4	1.5	4.5	Manchester	9.25	8.7	10.25	7.2	
Birmingham	7.14	14.5	13.4	14.5	Nottingham	9.5	7.1	12.10	4.4	
Belfast	11.5	3.7	11.42	3.4	Sheffield	6.32	7.1	8.42	7.7	
Cardiff	7.19	5.8	7.40	5.4	Southampton	5.2	7.1	5.32	7.2	
Edinburgh	5.05	5.6	6.25	5.4	Worcester	5.49	4.1	6.31	4.1	
Dover	10.57	6.8	11.30	8.7	York	11.20	5.7	12.25	5.5	
Exmouth	5.25	6.5	5.53	5.3	Cardiff	5.2	7.4	7.45	5.2	
Glasgow	12.43	4.7	12.50	5.1	Portsmouth	4.50	4.8	5.28	4.8	
Leeds	7.18	5.8	7.48	5.7	Sheff	11.20	6.3	11.47	6.7	
Hay Haven	11.19	5.8	10.48	5.7	Southampton	10.50	6.7	11.57	6.7	
Hull	8.21	7.4	8.39	7.5	Worcester	5.32	8.7	6.52	9.0	
King's Lynn	8.53	8.3	8.57	8.4	York	3.39	5.5	3.57	5.5	
Leeds	6.22	8.7	6.42	6.9	Worcester	11.11	4.3			
Lough	2.29	5.2	2.48	5.7						
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Lough	2.29	5.								



# SPORT

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● LAW 22,23  
● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-26

## Liverpool relish challenge from revitalised Leeds

By IAN ROSS

LIVERPOOL, whose aura of invincibility has begun to dissolve recently, could surrender the leadership of football's first division today.

Events at Selhurst Park, where Crystal Palace defeated the defending champions 1-0 on Sunday, did little to undermine Liverpool's belief that they will win the title for a twelfth time in 18 years, but they did add a measure of uncertainty to a championship which has, in recent years, become something of a formality.

At Anfield today, Liverpool will contest League points with Leeds United for the first time since 1982. The meeting was always likely to be interesting, but few outside West Yorkshire believed it would also be important.

After winning the second division championship last season, Leeds, under the astute management of Howard

### Top of first division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	19	14	3	2	38	10	44
Arsenal	20	13	3	4	36	18	42
Crystal Palace	20	12	7	1	28	10	40
Leeds	20	11	6	3	28	18	38
Tottenham	20	11	6	3	28	18	38
West Ham	20	10	6	4	26	18	36
Sheff Wed	20	9	6	5	26	18	32
Sheff Utd	20	9	6	5	26	18	32
Sheff Utd	20	9	6	5	26	18	32

Wilkinson, have set about the task of building a future to lay alongside an illustrious past with relish and quite unexpected fortitude.

A ten-week unbeaten run of 14 matches which has yielded 26 points from a possible 33, has moved Leeds into fourth place, just six points behind Liverpool. If Leeds were to become the first team to win at Anfield since November 1989, Arsenal could move into pole position on goal difference with a draw against Manchester City at Maine Road.

Liverpool's defeat on Sunday prompted fresh discussion about the wisdom of Kenny

Dalglish's team selection for fixtures away from home. Dalglish was not only unrepentant but defiant yesterday. "I know why decisions are made. I know where my heart lies and I know where my priorities lie," he said. "It does not upset me if I am criticised. It just upsets me that the club did not get the result we wanted and that the players did not get what they deserved."

Although Dalglish did not dismiss out of hand the latest challenge to Liverpool's authority, he did stress that the situation was not altogether unfamiliar. "There have been a lot of challenges to us in the last 25 years, but the most important thing is that Liverpool have always been there or thereabouts," he said.

"When there is adversity here, we close ranks and get behind each other."

Wilkinson, who only last month insisted that Leeds would not win the championship, said that he does not regard today's game as the acid test of his side's capabilities. "One result, whichever way it goes, can be very misleading," he said.

"I set off this season with a view to us finishing in the top ten; I thought that would be a respectable achievement. We have made a lot of progress, but we still have much to do. At their best, Liverpool can give you a clue as to what it is like to play in the World Cup against a good team," he added.

With Sterland having recovered from a knee injury, Leeds expect to be unchanged, but Liverpool may once again be without Whelan and Beardsley, who have both missed the last three games because of ankle injuries.

Arsenal, the only club yet to lose a League game this season, have added Hillier to their squad for today's game against City, who are in seventh position. Peter Reid, the manager of City, is expected to select Clark in attack after Heath was ruled out because of a groin strain.

Report, page 26

## Cowans praise for ambitious Palace

By CHRIS MOORE

IT IS mathematically possible for Crystal Palace to start the new year by moving level on points with Liverpool at the top of the first division.

For that to happen, Palace would need to win at Aston Villa, Liverpool would have to lose at home to Leeds United, and Arsenal would need to surrender their unbeaten record to Manchester City at Maine Road. But Palace have every reason to be reaching for the sky today, according to Gordon Cowans, Villa's veteran midfielder player.

"They're getting themselves into the same sort of position that we were in last season," Cowans said. "The big thing they have got going for them is a great team spirit and a tremendous work-rate."

"The way they stopped Liverpool playing on Sunday was phenomenal. They're on a

roll and are starting to make everyone else sit up and take notice of them."

● Chris Hughton, the Tottenham Hotspur and Republic of Ireland defender, has joined the second division leaders, West Ham United, on a free transfer.

● Angry shareholders who attended the annual meeting of Tottenham Hotspur plc yesterday revealed there was only one motion on the agenda, which called for the meeting to be adjourned until further notice. This was initially rejected on a show of hands, but it was carried by a large majority on a proxy vote.

There was criticism of the handling of the meeting by the acting chairman of the company, Douglas Alexiou.

### Barclays League

#### First division

**A Villa v Crystal Palace**  
A Villa, a hamstring victim, could be replaced by Callaghan, who is still on the Villa transfer list. Palace should retain the side which beat Liverpool 1-0.

**Chelsea v Everton**  
Townsend, the Chelsea captain, misses the game with a groin strain. Dorigo, Durie and Markou also sit out because of injury. Everton search for their first away League win of the season. Kendall, the manager, has added Coffin and Keown to his squad.

**Liverpool v Leeds**  
Liverpool await fitness checks on Beardsley and Whelan. Leeds are unchanged as they attempt to stretch their unbeaten run of 14 matches.

### Man City v Arsenal

Hillier, a 21-year-old midfielder, has been drafted into the Arsenal squad and could make his League debut if Rossett fails a fitness test. Clarke keeps his place for City with Heath still sidelined.

**Sheff Utd v QPR**  
Rangers are unlikely to make changes after beating Sunderland 3-2 for their first League win in over two months.

**Sunderland v Soton**  
Sunderland will be without Deverport (hamstring) and Ord (flu). Gubbins, the leading scorer, may replace the absent Deverport if he overcomes knee problems. Southampton have a shot over Dodd, their England Under-21 full back, who has an ankle strain. Charnick is standing by as cover.

### Tottenham v Man Utd

Tottenham have a large slice of their senior squad struggling with injuries. Habbitt (knee), Sumner (knee), Wain (back), Samways (ankle), Thorpe (back), Gascogne (stomach bug) and Farwick (ankle) are all affected. Wallace is back in contention for a place in the United line-up after recovering from knee problems.

**Wimbledon v Luton**  
Gibson and Krusnyanski may return for Wimbledon. Williams, the Luton midfielder, starts a two-match suspension after collecting six bookings this season.

### Second division

**Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed**  
Work is likely to be recalled in Middlesbrough. Wednesday rely on the nucleus of the side which beat Portsmouth 2-1 on Saturday.

## No substitute for concentration



Out of reach: Julie Richardson (13) and Lorna Norman, of Crystal Palace, are unable to prevent Caroline Swords, of Laurentian Voyagers, getting a shot away during their basketball match at the National Recreation Centre yesterday

## Hull coach going out on top

By KEITH MACKLIN

BRIAN Smith, the Hull coach, could not have wished for a more skilfully stage-managed finale to his rugby league career. Smith takes his league leaders to Craven Park today for the blood-and-thunder derby with Hull Kingston Rovers, and then has the home game with Leeds next Sunday for his farewell before returning to his coaching duties.

Smith can be proud of his achievements at the Boulevard. His coaching methods and abrasive approach to television summarising have aroused criticism, but he lifted Hull from the bottom reaches of the first division to a premiership final and to their

present first division leadership. He leaves the club in good playing shape for Noel Cleal, his Australian successor.

Today's game kicks off at 1pm at the request of the police, and a full house will expect to see a typically fiercely fought derby, with Rovers determined to topple their rivals from their lofty position. Hull will be without Richard Gay, who has a head injury.

Fresh from their shock victory over Widnes in the Regal Trophy semi-final, Warrington take their injury-hit squad to Wigan, where they will attempt to repeat the dose

against the champions. Warrington are a renowned bogey team at Central Park and this is likely to be as ferocious a confrontation as Saturday's match. Andy Gregory returns at scrum half for Wigan.

Widnes, whose pride was bitterly upset by Saturday's upset, will travel the short distance to St Helens to try to take it out on their struggling neighbours.

In the second division, one match stands out like a beacon, the Manchester area derby between the two front-runners for promotion, Salford and Swinton, who each have four games in hand of the leaders, Ryedale York.

## Sheffield is to make appeal for fresh funds

By PETER DAVENPORT

SHEFFIELD City Council is to make an appeal to central government for funds to help run the increasingly troubled World Student Games, which is facing the prospect of incurring huge losses on the event this summer.

Leaders of the Labour-controlled authority are to meet Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, later this month, and will seek "a significant financial commitment" towards the running of the Games.

They are expected to ask for at least £4 million in financial aid to ensure the success of the largest sports event ever held in this country, and to prevent losses being passed on to poll tax payers in the city.

So far, the government has made no direct contribution towards the running costs of the event, although the Sports Council has put in £2.6 million. The Whitehall response to an appeal at this late stage is far from clear.

Yesterday, the Sheffield council met in special session to hear details of a report prepared by Ray Gridley, director of Games administration, on the progress towards the organisation and funding of the event, which is due to begin in June with 6,000 athletes and officials from 120 nations to the city in June.

With just 194 days left before the event is due to open, Gridley said that current commitments stood at £9.4 million against pledged income of £5.57 million — leaving a shortfall of £3.81 million.

The council has said it is studying a range of options for staging the Games, running from £17 million to £27 million, but it has not yet disclosed which of the packages it will aim for. In the light of current financial difficulties, the cheaper option seems to be the one they will

have to embrace, but even that leaves them — on current figures — some £11 million adrift.

Although the building of £147 million-worth of new sports facilities inspired by the Games has been proceeding on schedule, the organisation of the event itself has been dogged by problems and persistent controversy.

There were reports yesterday that some members of the controlling Labour group, as well as Labour MPs in the city, were so dismayed at the crisis that they wanted the event called off unless the government comes up with a substantial cash injection.

David Chadwick, the leader of the Liberal group and the most vociferous critic of Labour's handling of the event, said yesterday: "We are heading for a £10 million deficit with not a clue where the money is to come from. This city council is, in all essence, bankrupt."

Clive Betts, the leader of the council, yesterday reaffirmed its intention to stage the Games, and the belief of the Labour group of its long-term benefit to the city. He said that cancelling the Games would itself incur large costs — some estimates put the figure between £5 million and £10 million.

"We are not contemplating cancellation," Betts said, adding that support from the government was now a requirement. "We believe this is a British event and they [the government] ought to take some element of responsibility."

The Games were originally sought by Sheffield as a catalyst for the city's economic regeneration after a decade in which it suffered 35,000 job losses as its traditional industries went into chronic decline.

## British pair stave off mechanical failure

MARSEILLES (AP) — Competitors in the Paris-Dakar Rally regrouped here yesterday with British interest already threatened, before making the traditional New Year's eve Mediterranean crossing to Tripoli.

Dick Partridge and his navigator, Keith Parker, were forced to make roadside repairs when the gearbox on their Isuzu Trooper failed on the journey from Paris to Clermont Ferrand for Sunday's first stage, a 3.1-mile

prologue.

The only Britons in the car section, they rebuilt the gearbox to run without second gear, arriving in Clermont Ferrand with only a five-minute penalty and completing the prologue in 107th place out of 183 entrants.

Clay Regazzoni, of Switzerland, became the first withdrawal after breaking a motor cylinder head on his Mercedes en route to Clermont Ferrand.

## England shed woes for business with the beast

From ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
SYDNEY

HARD on the heels of the last Test match of 1990, and one of the best, comes a controversial milestone. This week sees the twentieth anniversary of an accidental revolution, and it will be celebrated and castigated by roughly equal numbers, and with similar passion, throughout the cricketing world.

The one-day international forms such an accepted and substantial part of the game's calendar that it will surprise many recent converts that the concept was born out of desperation, over a wet Melbourne new year, as recently as 1971.

Still more surprising is that the revolution was so slow to gather momentum that in its first eight years only 56 international matches were staged around the world. In the past eight years there have been 494.

lurched from stubborn indifference to stifling over-indulgence in the time it took Kerry Packer to hijack their best players, dress them in coloured clothing and then offer their return for the courtesy of the television rights he had always wanted. With the deal done, the Australian Cricket Board, having refused for eight years to acknowledge the one-day game, suddenly found itself responsible for up to 20 matches each year.

As for India, the last test of exclusively Test cricket up to 1980, the bug has struck late but bitten deep. In two of the last four years, they have staged more international matches than even Australia and the effect on Test matches, for which tickets were once gold dust, has

been such a drastic decline in crowds that all the administrators can think of is planning more and more of the same.

This, of course, is why one-day internationals are at once the beauty and the beast. The game could not survive in its time-honoured form, nor should even consider it, without Test cricket, yet it is marketing itself in a manner designed to put the five-day game out of business.

For the evidence, look no further than Australia this week. The Melbourne Test was a classic five-day game, never less than absorbing and occasionally quite spectacular. It attracted one good crowd of 50,000, on Boxing Day, and four disappointing ones aggregating 75,000. It is hard to believe that anybody

present went away feeling he had been short-changed and yet the situation here in Sydney depressingly confirms one's worst fears.

Today's World Series Cup match between Australia and England has been sold out since late last week; so too, has the first final in the competition, scheduled for January 13. But tickets for the third Ashes Test, beginning on Friday, are still so plentiful that advance sales for the entire five days will probably not equal the takings from today's floodlit game.

This is not a new situation in Australia. Bob Radford, chief executive of the New South Wales Cricket Association, said: "The trend has been obvious for years. Personally, I am very sorry

about it, but it is now a fact of life."

England must put their Test match worries and woes to one side, don the blue strip once more and attend to unfinished business. For those who have mistaid the facts, they need to win at least one of their two remaining games with Australia, the second being on January 10, to qualify for the finals, which, if incentive for tired limbs is required, carry a winners' prize of around £13,000.

This is so much a second priority for England and for Graham Gooch, cricket's new OBE, that no risks were being contemplated with players less than fully fit. Lamb and Fraser were ruled out, Malcolm was ready to rest a shoulder strain and

Gower was unlikely to play if only because the need to ferry the ball back from his lame throwing arm in the outfield might look only ridiculous in a Test, but is simply unacceptable in the sprint games.

The party is in a threadbare state, and it would surely be wise for them to pull back from the plan to dispatch Hugh Morris on his travels with the A team. Not only is he fit, acclimatised and refreshingly enthusiastic, he is just the sort of robust left-hander who might reduce the potency of Bruce Reid, who is wisely rested today, over the remaining Tests.

As for today's event, there will be at least six people in the ground able to reminisce about the 30-year-old innovation it unofficially celebrates. Bill Lawry, Ian Chappell, Rodney Marsh and Keith Stackpole, of Australia, and Geoff Boycott and John Snow, of England, are all here in different guises and most will doubtless recall their one-day international debut as an apparently freakish, hit-and-giggle match, fitted in to appease the cricket-starved Melbourneans after an abandoned Test.

But, to everybody's astonishment, 46,000 people turned up at the MCG that day. In so doing, they ensured that, though the game would not change overnight, it would never be the same again.

### NOTABLE LANDMARKS IN THE ONE-DAY GAME

SINCE the first one-day international match — between Australia and England at Melbourne on January 5, 1971 — the one-day format game has produced many landmarks.

● There have been 556 matches at 90 venues in nine countries; 78 have been played under floodlights, 51 in Sydney, 22 in Melbourne, and three in Perth.

● The highest score is 380 for four, by West Indies against Sri Lanka at Karachi in the World Cup, 1987-8. There have been 21 totals of 300 or more.

● The lowest all-out total — excluding shortened matches — is 45, by Canada against England at Old Trafford in 1979.

● The largest winning margin is 232 runs, by Australia against Sri Lanka at Adelaide in 1984-5. Forty matches have been won by more than 100 runs,

including 12 by West Indies and seven have been won by ten wickets. Seven matches have been won by only one run and 39 by fewer than ten runs.

35 batsmen have scored 5,000 runs — Desmond Haynes, 6,622 (in 176 innings, with 18 hundreds, at 43.58), Viv Richards, 6,501 (180 innings, 11 hundreds, 47.80), Javed Miandad, 5,654 (167 innings, six hundreds, 41.88), Allan Border, 5,437 (201 innings, three hundreds, 31.79), and Gordon Greenidge, 5,025 (121 innings, 11 hundreds, 46.10).

The highest individual score was Richards's 189 not out, at Old Trafford for West Indies against England in 1984.

● Three wicketkeepers have more than 100 victims: Jeff Dujon, 191 (778 ct, 18st); Rodney Marsh 124 (120, 4t); Saleem Yousuf 103 (81, 22).

● There are five outstanding all-round performances: Imran Khan, 3,255 runs, 167 wickets; Kapil Dev, 3,100, 188; Mudassar Nazar, 2,654, 111; Viv Richards, 6,501, 118; Ravi Shastri, 2,557, 115.

	Games	Wins	Defeats	Tied	No result
England	182	34	81	1	6
Australia	241	125	104	2	10
India	179	78	97	0	4
New Zealand	167	70	88	0	7
Pakistan	103	101	96	0	4
Sri Lanka	113	28	86	0	1
West Indies	226	145	85	1	10
Bangladesh	3	0	3	0	0
Canada	3	0	3	0	0
East Africa	1	0	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	12	1	11	0	0

Not including the recent Asia Cup.

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# I did not learn a thing from the World Cup

George Graham, the Arsenal manager

Peter Ball selects the best of the sayings that help recall the highlights of the sporting year of 1990

- I don't know much about apartheid. Mike Gatting setting off on the ill-fated cricket tour of South Africa.
- It is like a large white sheet with one black dot, and everybody concentrates on the dot. Myrddin John, Welsh weightlifting team manager, after two members of his team failed drugs tests.
- My wife has been at me to take a few days off from rugby. Now I'll have a few months off. Alain Carmona, French forward, after being sent off for stamping on John Jeffrey's head against Scotland.
- I wanted them to stop thinking of rugby as a bit of fun, something you play once a week and train for on Tuesday and Thursday night before having a few beers. To be successful at international level, you can't behave like that. You have to think of yourself like Sebastian Coe or Daley Thompson because, like them, you are at the top of your sport. You are competing on the world stage. That means your entire lifestyle must be devoted to your sport. You can't do it on eight pints and fish and chips every training night. Geoff Cooke, England rugby union manager.
- We just let their over-confidence help beat themselves. At the start, they were obviously believing in their own hype, you could see it in their eyes. Finlay Calder, after Scotland's 13-7 victory against England.
- I thought it was a Christmas card when I was opening it. The invitation is being framed and it will hang for ever on the wall. Rossa Rafferty on receiving an invitation to play in the US Masters for the first time.
- I'm glad they've got water on every tee; the mouth gets very dry. Nick Faldo feeling the tension during the final rounds of the US Masters.
- To be honest, I thought that in extra time both teams had settled for a replay. I was panicking then because I hadn't re-booked our hotel for midweek. Steve Coppell, Crystal Palace manager, generally staying calm during his side's 4-3 FA Cup semi-final victory over Liverpool.
- Like shooting wee ducks at a fairground to try and win a prize. Alex Smith, Aberdeen manager, on his team's Scottish Cup final victory in a penalty shoot-out.
- High profile players would probably include the props, the flanking back-row man with the blond hair, and the two wings or the try-scorers. But what about the guy who makes the half-break and puts the try scorer through? He will not be recognised or offered say £5,000 to model for an agency or to drive a new car. Simon Halliday, Bath and England centre, on rugby union's relaxing its rules on amateurism.
- I want them to put an extra screw on the scoreboard so there is room for the thousand. David Hughes, Lancashire captain, as his side got to 665 for 9 in reply to Surrey's 707 for 9. They failed to reach four figures.



● They were chosen for their looks above all else. We need women who look good. We have learned over the years that the aesthetic element is important for good coverage. Lionel Provost, the promoter, explaining the choice of Deborah McHaffie and Tammie Green from photographs to play in the Hennessy Cup women's golf tournament.

● I'm not a chauvinist. Women just aren't as good as men at anything — well, in sport, anyway. Eric Bristow, darts player.

Ever since I started this project, I was told that it's impossible for a girl to get a boat, sponsorship and a crew, and that it's laughable for the female crew to win. So it's a triumph over those who thought it couldn't be done. Tracy Edwards, after Maiden came first in the class in the Fremantle leg of the Whitbread round the world yacht race.

● It's become a race between two admission policies. Richard Young, Cambridge rower on the Boat Race.

● I've played at Cowdenbeath and East Stirling, and once you've been there you're cruising for the rest of your life. Gordon Strachan, Leeds captain, on his move into the second division.

● We'd better buy some shooting sticks, the clubs we'll be playing next season don't have stands. London Welsh supporter as his team sank to the bottom of the Courage clubs championship.

● My little jig is very ceremonial and I was hoping to celebrate the batsman getting out. Viv Richards rejecting suggestions that he had pressurised the umpire, Lloyd Barker, into obtaining Rob Bailey's dismissal in Bridgetown.

● You can stick snooker up your jacksy. I don't want to be part of it any more. This game is the most corrupt in the world. I don't want to be part of a game where there are slush funds for everybody and the players are mucked about. Alex Higgins announcing his "retirement" after defeat in the first round of the world championship.

● It was only the hurt in my cheeks from the constant broad smile that convinced me this dream I had had since I was a child had come true. Marcus Armytage on winning the Grand National on Mr Frisk.

● There are players now who won't even go into the tournament changing-rooms. It's such a problem some families often go along just to keep their youngsters away from the lesbian element. Margaret Court on the women's world tennis circuit.

● I'm not gay, I go surfing. Jason Donovan, pop singer.

● It isn't as prestigious as it was. It used to be on a par with footballers, all the players liked to be pictured with Page Three girls. I think they think it's a bit down-market now. Caroline Russell, announcing her retirement as a topless model.

● Even now people say "Did you ever dream in those days that you would come in second?" Of course not. I dreamed of coming first. Tracy Edwards, looking back on Maiden's voyage.

● If there is a battle, we're not going to lose it. Antonio Secchia, Cagliari police chief, on preparations for the English supporters.

● Being champion is like being married. Losing is like a divorce. Mike Tyson after losing the world heavyweight championship to Buster Douglas.

● The Cricket Test — which side do they cheer for? Norman Tebbit introducing a new criterion of successful integration.

● I'm sure if Becker and Graf had been born in England, they'd now either be selling fish and chips on Bournemouth pier, or at some art college. David Evans, MP, former Luton chairman, planning a coaching scheme and centre at Hemel Hempstead.

● We can't buy a Nigel Kennedy, a Kenneth Branagh or a Nick Faldo. They have to emerge. Ian Pascoe, chief executive of the Lawn Tennis Association, on its player development programme.

● Is there any prize-money? Competitor, the Prudential short tennis championships for under-11s.

● The race isn't over until the fat mermaid sings. Peter Blake, skipper of the winner, Steinlager 2, of the Whitbread round the world race.

● There's a hundred years of bloody tradition on Yorkshire lads. As soon as a male's born, bloody hell, the fellow says, good, I'm glad he's born in Yorkshire. By the time he's toddling, he's got a bat in his hand. Bloody Pakistanis didn't know the damn thing. Brian Close, chairman, cricket sub-committee, Yorkshire CCC, on the county's search for talent.

● It's nothing to do with colour. They hate people from Lancashire, people from down south, people from abroad, even people from the wrong part of the county. Yorkshire just hate everybody. I've seen really good white lads frozen out too, because they don't fit in. Wasim Raja, failed Yorkshire trialist.



● We failed Tebbit's cricket test and we're proud of it. Indian supporters' banner at Headingley.

● My husband and I were appalled by the constant stream of lewd and incredibly offensive remarks about coloured people, in particular coloured women and Jewish men. Among these middle-aged lewds was a man who has held high office in the cricketing world, but certainly could not be described as a Yorkshire gentleman. Lady Hill, a Yorkshire businesswoman's wife, on a day watching England v New Zealand at Headingley.

● Where is Gascoigne. I must speak to him. He is a dog of war with the face of a child. Gianni Agnelli, Juventus president, succumbing to Gazzamania.

● There is a Mafia even in the soccer world. The penalty didn't exist. It was given to let the Germans win. Maradona after Argentina's World Cup final defeat.

● I wanted to win. I didn't care if I had to scrape and scratch and crawl out there. Martina Navratilova on her record ninth Wimbledon singles title.

● I didn't learn a thing from the World Cup. George Graham, Arsenal manager.

● I wouldn't say I've reached the stage where I'm going to tell the selectors to stuff it. But while I'm not ready to sever all ties, I have got as far as saying "Sod 'em". David Gower after being dropped for the first Test match against New Zealand.

● Cor, and I travelled 12,000 miles to see that. Craig White's father, an Australian resident, returning home to see his son get a duck for Yorkshire at Uxbridge.

● I didn't want to strike a blow for feminism. I wasn't going to stand in my suspenders, knock on the pavilion door and demand to get in. Pat Hughes, Glamorgan CCC committee member, on being barred from Lord's pavilion during the NatWest Trophy quarter-final.

● I will never play in another PGA Championship. I've played in five now and the courses are all the same. The rough is diabolical. Ian Woosnam at Shoal Creek.

● I felt instead like watching the tournament on television. It was rainy and windy and the course didn't look inviting. I would have preferred instead to have had an enormous lunch. Mark James after beating Sam Torrance to retain his NM English Open title at The Belfry.



● Nice and cuddly. Paul Gascoigne after meeting Mrs Thatcher.

● It's nice to break a record which has stood for 70 years, but I'm not all that enthusiastic about it. Tom Moody after scoring a century for Warwickshire in 26 minutes to surpass Percy Fender's record as Glamorgan bowled for the declaration.

● In all my years on entering Lord's I was given the feeling I was trespassing. Small Gavaskar turning down honorary life membership of MCC.

● How many bedrooms will you have in your new house? Will you get a dog? Fanny Sannesson, Faldo's caddie, keeping him relaxed during his winning round in the Open.



● Players are free to choose whether to go to South Africa, but I wish they would be straight about it. They are not going to further the cause of multi-racial cricket, they are going for the money. Keith Fletcher, England A team tour manager.

● I would rather not go. I will fight for my country if I have to, but I think I would serve it better by competing in major championships. Sir Aircraftman Paul Edwards, British shot putter facing a posting to the Gulf.

● It's television's last live frontier. The good guy in the white hat doesn't always get the girl. That's the beauty of live sport. Dave Hill, head of BSkyB sport.

● I'll tell Goochie one thing: if he wants to keep his captain's dream alive, he's got to stop giving Gus 13-over spells like he did on Friday night. Gus is the goose that lays the golden egg; therefore you have got to look after him. He is at the start of what could be a long England career. But it could turn into a short career if England don't start using him in shorter spells. Mike Gatting reacting to Fraser's long spell against India at Old Trafford. Kim Barnett had already made the same complaint for Devon Malcolm.

● I don't know the president of Juventus. Isn't he a car salesman? Brian Clough reacting angrily to Juventus's attempts to secure Des Walker.

● It gets to something when my mates have got to hide me in and out of my own home and White Hart Lane. Paul Gascoigne discovering the drawbacks of fame.

● Wherever I look now I see Gazza's smiling face; bright, blind-bird eyes, pink piglet skin; mouth permanently ajar, teeth exposed in a curving arc, tongue alert for protrusion. Lama Thompson, The Times, on the Gazza factor.

● In Halifax we are getting rid of the assumption that football clubs are the preserve of white middle-class men in camel coats, sipping champagne and using the game as an extension of their own egos and virility. Dave Helliwell, leader of Halifax Council, who own Halifax Town.

● I would rather not go. I will fight for my country if I have to, but I think I would serve it better by competing in major championships. Sir Aircraftman Paul Edwards, British shot putter facing a posting to the Gulf.

● It's television's last live frontier. The good guy in the white hat doesn't always get the girl. That's the beauty of live sport. Dave Hill, head of BSkyB sport.

● Football in Britain could not be in a sorer state. Sport is dying. The future is in culture, spirituality and religion. Robert Maxwell.

● The referee said Warhurst had been sent off for foul and abusive language, but the lad swears blind he never said a word. Joe Boyle, Oldham manager, after Rumbelows Cup match at Notts County.

● I am not ready to fight against irresponsible people who are not afraid to die. Alain Prost accusing Ayrton Senna of deliberately crashing him at the first corner of the Japanese grand prix. Prost's retirement ensured that Senna became champion.

● Keep him away from Diana. Palace official on Gascoigne after his "cuddle" with Mrs Thatcher.

● He is his own best PR, but we always knew he was no Pavarotti. I wouldn't advise him to hang up his boots just yet. Ray Laidlaw, Lindsfarne drummer, on Gazza the pop star.

● It takes him a fortnight to put his socks on. Mick Stewart on Devon Malcolm.

● I'll never fight Nigel Benn again. He nearly killed me. Chris Eubank after winning the WBO middleweight championship.

● Thanks to him. I've changed my technique in the way I go down in the scrum. Susan Dorrington, England women's hooker, on her male counterpart, Brian Moore.

● Does my ban from international cricket mean I have to be treated like a leper? Mike Gatting after his participation at the England nets caused a furore.

● You get opposing props with bad breath, those who try to gouge your eyes out, and try to break your back. Yes, it's a tough old game. Gareth Chilcott, England and Bath prop.

● The top companies already know they cannot go wrong with the England rugby team, its high profile and squeaky clean image. Bob Willis, whose company is marketing the England rugby players.

● There are too many old fogies up there ever to sign an overseas player. Doorman at the Leeds Holiday Inn as the Yorkshire committee debated the issue. He was right, by 15-5.

● Yorkshire cricket is still living in the dark ages. Paul Jarvis, Yorkshire fast bowler, on the county's rejection of overseas players.

● Sometimes you have to accept there's nothing you can do — extra training, psychology, getting a couple of strippers in, none of it will help. Dave Bassett as Sheffield United set a record for games without a win.

● I didn't get it for crying. Paul Gascoigne on being made BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

● The press were writing him off, and that acted as a spur for him. Richard Burridge after Desert Orchid won the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day.

English

Rothmans is dismissing protest



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ATHLETICS

# Marathon men hit by a breakdown in communications

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IF BRITAIN'S best marathon runners could have a wish for 1991, surely it would be that the national selectors might occasionally pick up the telephone to talk to them. The selectors' apparent indifference to the event in 1990 was a disgrace, and this year has not started promisingly.

The Morpeth to Newcastle road race today has attracted a good field which includes three accomplished marathon runners, Paul Davies-Hale, Kevin Forster and Tony Milovosov. For Davies-Hale and Forster it is an important run-out in their preparation for the Tokyo Marathon six weeks hence.

When the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) decided a fortnight ago to fill almost immediately one of its three places for the men's world championship next summer, it made a false assumption: that it had more than one athlete to choose from. Only later did it discover that no one who might have wanted to run, with the exception of Allister Hutton, the London Marathon winner, had achieved the qualifying time of 2hr 12min within the International Amateur Athletic Federation's specified period. The only other qualified Briton, Mike O'Reilly, had said he was not interested.

By talking to the athletes, the BAAB would have discovered that a better policy decision would have been to pick its man after the Tokyo Marathon. It would then have been spared the embarrassment of Les Jones, the national team manager, having to point out the error to a council meeting this Sunday.

"It was decided [on December 16] that we would select one marathon runner before Christmas to give him more time to prepare," Jones said. "The case I am going to put on Sunday is that we confirm our policy of early selection, but that we do it after the Tokyo Marathon. We are trying to produce the best team to win medals for Britain and if we have to do a U-turn then so be it."

The same lack of foresight was evident last April when the board failed to name Geoff Wightman for the European championship immediately after the London Marathon, apparently reserving the place for Davies-Hale but not realising that the Cannock man then had eyes only for the 10,000 metres.

Not even Hutton has a case now for selection, assuming he wishes it. The other two places will be filled after London on April 21, and he will have to run well there to merit it. Anything under 2hr 10min next season should earn Davies-Hale the early place, but should he fail, the selectors may have to abandon their pre-selection idea.

Davies-Hale probably has the widest range of talent of any British runner from 1,500 metres upwards. In 1989 he ran a 3min 55.8sec mile and a 2hr 11min 25sec marathon, winning Chicago, his only marathon so far. His form was evidenced by his second place to Eamonn Martin in the Durham cross country on Saturday. On a Tokyo course which is the second-fastest in the world, behind Rotterdam, 2:10 should be within his range.

Of the BAAB's tangled web, he said: "It is embarrassing, but it is nice to know that I am capable of it." He applauded the board's good intentions in trying to give one man more notice. "The sooner a marathon runner knows what he is doing the better for his preparation," he said.

Quite what the selectors will make of Forster's explanation that he does not wish to be considered for the world championship because he had no desire to run London as a trial in successive years, and the 1992 Olympics are more appealing, is hard to imagine. But his mind is made up, even if he runs a blinder next month. Not that he is waiting by the telephone expecting a selector to call enquiring of his plans.

SWIMMING

## Introduction of random drug testing urged by Canadians

From CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

THE shadow of Ben Jonsson settled over the sixth world swimming championships yesterday as Canada's Olympic bid for the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona was under threat. Such concerns were likely to take the heat off the Chinese team's arrival today at Perth's Superdome as the hot, dry summer here.

Dave Johnson, the head coach to the Canadian swimmer, said: "There are still countries that are not taking the game seriously. There are still countries that are not taking the game seriously. There are still countries that are not taking the game seriously."

China are fielding nine women who between them have 13 top-five world ranking places. They had none in the top 20 four years ago. The most impressive times are from Xiao Hong Wang and Hsiao Qian in the 100 metres butterfly. At 58.87sec and 58.95sec respectively, they are the closest

rules were being looked at to make sure they would reflect "prevailing situations" by the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. Such concerns were likely to take the heat off the Chinese team's arrival today at Perth's Superdome as the hot, dry summer here.

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## Target for Long is clear as crystal

From CRAIG LORD

NEWS of the continuing success at Selhurst Park is music to the ears of Zara Long, an avid Crystal Palace football supporter. It has also provided the 15-strong British swimming squad with a welcome distraction as they wait for the start of the world championships over 8,000 miles away in Perth, Australia.

More than 1,000 swimmers from 68 countries, will compete for 32 titles over eight days. Such statistics make this the biggest swimming event ever held, beating even the Olympic Games. While the divers, water polo players and swimmers move into action on Thursday, the swimmers have to wait until Monday.

Long, of Beckenham, has swum in every leading national team since competing at the Los

Angels Olympic Games, when she was 13 years old. "We're ready for this one," she said. "I've never been on such a positive team. The training camp has gone really well. As the races get nearer, we speak less about them. We choose other topics, like Crystal Palace winning."

Her upbeat view was echoed by all, with Adrian Moorhouse, the world record-holder and Olympic champion at 100 metres breaststroke, praising selectors for sticking to a policy of elitism. "It's great to be on a team in which every member is aiming to do their best," he said.

After a two-week training camp, most of the squad are ready for action. Their aim is clear: best times all round to ensure places in the finals, after which medals should follow.

SNOOKER

### James aware of room for improvement

STEVE James, who begins his defence of the Mercantile Credit Classic with a third-round meeting against the Australian, John Campbell, at the Bournemouth International Centre tonight, has been somewhat accident-prone over the past three years (Steve Acton writes).

However, having survived a variety of misfortunes, including a fully dressed drive into a basking lake just before a tournament match, he now believes he has stumbled across the secret of becoming world champion.

James, aged 29, the world No. 9, has finally convinced himself that practice really could make perfect, and is spending £10,000 on having a snooker room built onto his home at Cannock in the West Midlands.

"I believe I have the ability to become world champion or world No. 1 but I also know I have got to work harder," he said. "I've not been putting in the practice and I know I've got to do it if I'm going to challenge the likes of Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis."

POOLS FORECAST

THIRD DIVISION	FOURTH DIVISION	FIFTH DIVISION	SIXTH DIVISION
1 Grimsby v Bury	1 Grimsby v Bury	1 Grimsby v Bury	1 Grimsby v Bury
2 Not on compass	2 Not on compass	2 Not on compass	2 Not on compass
3 Birmingham v Sheffield	3 Birmingham v Sheffield	3 Birmingham v Sheffield	3 Birmingham v Sheffield
4 City Trainers v City Trainers	4 City Trainers v City Trainers	4 City Trainers v City Trainers	4 City Trainers v City Trainers
5 Hull v Leeds	5 Hull v Leeds	5 Hull v Leeds	5 Hull v Leeds
6 Barnsley v Leeds	6 Barnsley v Leeds	6 Barnsley v Leeds	6 Barnsley v Leeds
7 Barnsley v Leeds	7 Barnsley v Leeds	7 Barnsley v Leeds	7 Barnsley v Leeds
8 Barnsley v Leeds	8 Barnsley v Leeds	8 Barnsley v Leeds	8 Barnsley v Leeds
9 Barnsley v Leeds	9 Barnsley v Leeds	9 Barnsley v Leeds	9 Barnsley v Leeds
10 Barnsley v Leeds	10 Barnsley v Leeds	10 Barnsley v Leeds	10 Barnsley v Leeds

SEVENTH DIVISION	EIGHTH DIVISION	NINTH DIVISION	TENTH DIVISION
1 Grimsby v Bury	1 Grimsby v Bury	1 Grimsby v Bury	1 Grimsby v Bury
2 Not on compass	2 Not on compass	2 Not on compass	2 Not on compass
3 Birmingham v Sheffield	3 Birmingham v Sheffield	3 Birmingham v Sheffield	3 Birmingham v Sheffield
4 City Trainers v City Trainers	4 City Trainers v City Trainers	4 City Trainers v City Trainers	4 City Trainers v City Trainers
5 Hull v Leeds	5 Hull v Leeds	5 Hull v Leeds	5 Hull v Leeds
6 Barnsley v Leeds	6 Barnsley v Leeds	6 Barnsley v Leeds	6 Barnsley v Leeds
7 Barnsley v Leeds	7 Barnsley v Leeds	7 Barnsley v Leeds	7 Barnsley v Leeds
8 Barnsley v Leeds	8 Barnsley v Leeds	8 Barnsley v Leeds	8 Barnsley v Leeds
9 Barnsley v Leeds	9 Barnsley v Leeds	9 Barnsley v Leeds	9 Barnsley v Leeds
10 Barnsley v Leeds	10 Barnsley v Leeds	10 Barnsley v Leeds	10 Barnsley v Leeds

## Bookmakers enjoy perfect end to year with eclipse of Cheltenham favourites

IAN STEWART



Eventual winner New Haven (Eamonn Tierney, left) jumping in unison with third-placed Iron Gray (Jamie Osborne) at Cheltenham yesterday

## Rees family celebrate with Die Broke

By RICHARD EVANS

NEW Year celebrations began early for the family of former royal jockey Bill Rees at Cheltenham yesterday after a remarkable effort resulted in victory in the Denmot Daily Memorial Trophy Handicap Chase for amateur riders.

Rees, who rode Pas Seul to victory in the 1960 Cheltenham Gold Cup, was official starter for the day at National Hunt headquarters and duly set off the five runners, including Die Broke, ridden by his son, James.

With the jockey's mother at the course to watch her son have his first ride this season, family emotions must have been running high as Die Broke was always well placed behind the front running Goldfield.

The Andy Turner-trained six-year-old took up the running

two fences from home, put in a splendid leap at the last and James Rees stayed as cool as the weather to drive Die Broke up the hill and withstand the challenge of River House and Up And Coming.

The win was the first under rules for James, aged 25, who has recorded four point-to-point victories and it kept up the family tradition of Cheltenham glory. Billy Rees, his grandfather, partnered Brown Jack to victory in the 1928 Champion Hurdle. James Rees is assistant to Turnbull, whose father, Bob, trained Pas Seul.

While the Rees family left Prestbury Park full of joy, the same could not be said for most punters who braved the showers and chill winds swirling round the jumping amphitheatre. All six favourites were beaten, providing the bookmakers with

a perfect end to the year.

Ran For Free was the most notable casualty, in the Spa Hurdle, where Bradbury Star swept past the 7-4 on favourite more than two furlongs from home. Despite trying to rally on the run-in, the Irish-trained five-year-old still had six lengths to spare over Ran For Free. When the two horses met at Haydock three weeks ago, Martin Pipe's hurdler was the superior by 22 lengths.

Bradbury Star has never stopped improving since coming to Clifford's Finesse yard and will now be given a rest before probably being aimed at the Stayers' Hurdle during the Cheltenham festival, where Trainer John is a doubtful participant.

La Cienega began the punter's nightmare in the opening Lansdowne Novices' Hurdle.

Toby Balding's gelding was cantering approaching the last and, after putting in a bold jump, look certain to win. Just when his stamina should have prevailed, he tired and Strong Beau swooped and outbatted Dusty Miller to win by half a length.

The fortunes of David Barons have never looked back since he decided to buy most of his horses from New Zealand and Mayvona could prove to be as good as a Play School after a highly impressive victory in the Broadway Novices' Chase. He jumped the last two fences particularly well and has booked his place in the Sun Alliance Chase.

As with most of his New Zealand stock, Barons bought Mayvona on a yearling, brought him to England as a three-year-old and waited patiently for him to develop. "I rate him a good

horse. He was a fair hurdler, but will make a better chaser," he said. "I have got two very nice horses, this one and Topham Bay."

New Haven, a surprise 66-1 winner of the Mildmay of Flete Chase last season, will be seeking further Cheltenham festival glory following a smooth success in the Cleeve Hill Handicap Chase. Trainer Paul Jones will enter his nine-year-old for three festival handicaps over two, two and three miles. "He is good in his own class in handicaps, but he is no good with big weights," he said.

Punters plunged on Jenny Pittman's Do Be Brief in the last race of the day, the Robinson Handicap Hurdle, in a desperate bid to get out of trouble, but a poor jump at the last by the 11-8 favourite ended his chances and those of his backers. Never mind, there is always 1991.

## Results from yesterday's five meetings

### Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

12.45 (2m hdl) 1, STRONG BEAU (P) 12/1, 2, DASHY (P) 12/1, 3, DASHY (P) 12/1, 4, DASHY (P) 12/1, 5, DASHY (P) 12/1, 6, DASHY (P) 12/1, 7, DASHY (P) 12/1, 8, DASHY (P) 12/1, 9, DASHY (P) 12/1, 10, DASHY (P) 12/1, 11, DASHY (P) 12/1, 12, DASHY (P) 12/1, 13, DASHY (P) 12/1, 14, DASHY (P) 12/1, 15, DASHY (P) 12/1, 16, DASHY (P) 12/1, 17, DASHY (P) 12/1, 18, DASHY (P) 12/1, 19, DASHY (P) 12/1, 20, DASHY (P) 12/1, 21, DASHY (P) 12/1, 22, DASHY (P) 12/1, 23, DASHY (P) 12/1, 24, DASHY (P) 12/1, 25, DASHY (P) 12/1, 26, DASHY (P) 12/1, 27, DASHY (P) 12/1, 28, DASHY (P) 12/1, 29, DASHY (P) 12/1, 30, DASHY (P) 12/1, 31, DASHY (P) 12/1, 32, DASHY (P) 12/1, 33, DASHY (P) 12/1, 34, DASHY (P) 12/1, 35, DASHY (P) 12/1, 36, DASHY (P) 12/1, 37, DASHY (P) 12/1, 38, DASHY (P) 12/1, 39, DASHY (P) 12/1, 40, DASHY (P) 12/1, 41, DASHY (P) 12/1, 42, DASHY (P) 12/1, 43, DASHY (P) 12/1, 44, DASHY (P) 12/1, 45, DASHY (P) 12/1, 46, DASHY (P) 12/1, 47, DASHY (P) 12/1, 48, DASHY (P) 12/1, 49, DASHY (P) 12/1, 50, 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# Beech Road ready to redeem himself

## to go freelance

By MANDARIN

JUST as the King George VI Chase gave Desert Orchid the opportunity to redeem his reputation, the New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor presents Beech Road with the ideal platform to re-assert his Champion Hurdle claims.

With conditions likely to be in his favour, I believe he will seize the chance.

The champion hurdler in 1989, before Kribbens took his crown last season, his form is every inch that of a horse who relishes some cut in the ground. Indeed, he won his Champion Hurdle on soft ground only to relinquish it when the going was too lively for him. Heavy rain in the south yesterday should ensure that he will have the necessary underfoot conditions.

He began the season with a comfortable 2½-length win over Royal Dearth in the "Fighting Fifth" Hurdle at Newcastle, coming with a sweetly-timed challenge to lead approaching the last and drawing clear on the run-in.

On the basis of that eye-catching reappearance he was made a 9-4 on favourite to follow up at Haydock, but could finish only six lengths third to Run For Free. That was certainly disappointing but Toby Balding, his trainer, ascribed the defeat to ground which had become sticky and prevented Beech Road from making the best of his fluent

action. He is worth another chance.

Royal Dearth reappears on only 3½ better terms than at Newcastle, not enough to encourage a belief that he can reverse the placings, and he has since been decisively beaten at Ascot. Floyd and the unpredictable Aidoo were behind in the valuable race won by Fiddlers at Kempton's Christmas meeting while Pastors Glories may need the run on his return to action.

But for the time I go to Cheltenham and Biggame to repeat last year's win in the four-mile ASW Handicap Chase. Speed has never been Biggame's strong suit but he is a determined stayer who comes into his own over extreme distances.

This testing course brings out the best in him and on his penultimate start he ran an excellent 1½ lengths second here to the much-improved Topham Bay over 3½ miles. Barocava is another dour stayer but he blotted his copybook with a disappointing run in the Welsh National at Chepstow, and the bottom half of the field out of the handicap proper by 9½ and upwards, this is an excellent opportunity for Biggame to register his first success of the season.

The Peter Easterby-trained

Elder Prince can strike a blow for the north by winning the ASW Handicap Hurdle. The winner of five of his last six starts, he continued his improvement when swooping on Driving Force at the final furlong to win by 2½ lengths at Uttoxeter last time. He still looks reasonably handicapped and can take advantage of the 21lb he receives from Martin Pipe's Voyage Sans Retour.

The most valuable race on the Leicester programme, the Wigston Hurdle, should go to the unbeaten Champagne Gold. The former smart Flat performer has made a fine start in his new career with clear-cut wins at Nottingham and Haydock.

## Introducing Thunderer

THE TIMES racing service today introduces Thunderer to add to our range of selections and to represent us in the National Press Challenge.

Thunderer has been commissioned to collate the latest information from all the areas of racing intelligence. This extra dimension augments our full service of statistics, news and features and the tipping team headed by Mandarin (Michael Phillips).

WALTER Swinburn will not be riding as stable jockey to Michael Stoute this year, but hopes to continue his association with the Newmarket-based trainer on a freelance basis.

A short statement issued from Stoute's Freemason Lodge yesterday said: "Michael Stoute will not be raising a stable jockey in 1991. Walter Swinburn will be riding as a freelance but will continue to ride frequently for the stable."

Swinburn's father, the former Irish champion jockey Walter, later confirmed the surprise move by saying: "I know they have been discussing the situation over a period of time, and this announcement is a direct result of those discussions."

"The decision was a mutual one on an amiable basis, and Walter will definitely continue to ride for Michael wherever he is available to do so," Walter Swinburn was playing golf and unavailable for comment on the subject.

The Stoute-Swinburn combination first came to prominence through the exploits of Shergar, the brilliant 1981 winner of the Derby, the Irish Derby at the Curragh and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot.

Since then, the pair have enjoyed immense success together, frequently with horses owned by the Aga Khan. Their most significant shared victories, apart from Shergar, came with the 1986 Derby hero, Galileo, and the 1988 2,000 Guineas winner, Sea the Stars.

Other notable to carry the Aga's famous green and red colours for Stoute and Swinburn include the 1986 Juddmonte International Stakes winner Shards and the subsequently



Swinburn: successful association with Stoute

disqualified 1989 Oaks winner Alysha, whose removal from the classic record books after a long-running Jockey Club enquiry involving a prohibited drug caused the Aga to remove all his horses from Britain.

Despite their many joint successes, however, Stoute and Swinburn have not always appeared on completely amiable terms, and rumours about a split have occurred throughout their association.

The most recent whispers followed the announcement last autumn that Stoute had been contracted to ride the majority of Sheikh Mohamed's horses next season.

With Stoute's yard containing an abundance of the Sheikh's impeccably-bred thoroughbreds, including the 1991 Derby hope Opera House, it was almost inevitable that there would be renewed speculation about Swinburn's long-term future.

## LEICESTER

### Selections

By Mandarin  
1.0 Prime Display, 1.30 Champagne Gold, 2.0 Close Escape, 2.30 Knockout, 3.0 Noel Luck, 3.30 De Profundis.

By Thunderer  
1.0 Rochester, 1.30 Champagne Gold, 2.0 Close Escape, 2.30 Knockout, 3.0 Reef Lark, 3.30 Knockout.

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdle).

### 1.0 HURSTON NOVICES HURDLE (21,663: 2m) (18 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
2. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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### 1.30 HURSTON NOVICES HURDLE (21,663: 2m) (18 runners)

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### 2.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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### 2.30 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

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### 2.50 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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### 3.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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### 3.30 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

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### 3.50 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

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### 4.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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### 4.30 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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## 2.30 NEW YEAR NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (22,422: 2m) (8 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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## 3.0 PARSLEY NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (22,110: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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## 3.30 GLEBE HANDICAP HURDLE (22,227: 3m) (19 runners)

1. BALDWIN HILL 21 (J. J. Jones) 5-11-10
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## 3.50 GLEBE HANDICAP HURDLE (22,227: 3m) (19 runners)

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## 4.0 GLEBE HANDICAP HURDLE (22,227: 3m) (19 runners)

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## 4.30 GLEBE HANDICAP HURDLE (22,227: 3m) (19 runners)

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## 4.50 GLEBE HANDICAP HURDLE (22,227: 3m) (19 runners)

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# Victims in search of justice

Recent years have seen victims of serious crime using the civil courts to try to get the justice they feel is denied them within the criminal system by the failure of authorities to prosecute suspects.

However, it is a development that some legal experts feel is a mixed blessing. It may be the only way to achieve some kind of justice where the Director of Public Prosecutions has refused to take action, but it may also result in a defendant being branded as a criminal without having the protection normally given at trial.

Two cases illustrate the pros and cons of civil action in these circumstances. In November a Derby woman was given permission to sue for damages two men she claims murdered her 16-year-old daughter more than 12 years ago. The Court of Appeal overturned a previous ruling that the case should not proceed as it had been brought outside a three-year time limit for the beginning of the legal action.

When the action comes to the High Court, probably next autumn, it will be the first time a plaintiff has sued citizens for murder without a previous conviction in a criminal court. Indeed, in the case of one of the men the action goes further in breaking new ground as he has already been acquitted of the offence in a crown court.

## The failure of authorities to prosecute suspects has seen a rise in the number

of civil cases brought by victims, Tony Trueman writes

The girl's mother, Gail Halford, wants to obtain a public finding of guilt in the civil system because she failed to obtain it in the criminal courts. She has campaigned long and unsuccessfully for charges to be brought against the unnamed man.

Yet the pitfalls of civil action can be seen in the case of a 27-year-old woman who sued a physiotherapist for rape and won £25,108 damages in November 1988 after the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled there was insufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution.

The award was overturned a year later in the Court of Appeal, which ruled that the defendant had not had a fair hearing. By then the woman had been named by the media, which is forbidden in criminal trials, and the physiotherapist had lived for a year with the finding that he was a rapist. Both sides had suffered emotionally and financially.

The idea of taking civil action without a conviction being obtained first is not new. In previous centuries, before the development of the state prosecuting system, it

was a frequent means of redress. By suing in this way, the plaintiff has the advantage of a different standard of proof to win the action — not the familiar "beyond reasonable doubt" needed to convict but "the balance of probabilities" for the judge, who usually hears the case without a jury.

The action cannot be stopped by the Director of Public Prosecutions, as can private criminal prosecutions.

Few have any doubts that the use of civil action as a substitute for the criminal process will increase. A recent article by a solicitor in the *New Law Journal* suggested that child victims of sexual abuse could use it to circumvent the criminal system rule that their evidence must usually be corroborated before it can be admitted.

Carol Harlow, law professor at the London School of Economics, wants an easier way for crime victims, or their relatives, to challenge decisions by the Director of Public Prosecutions not to take criminal action. However, she doubts whether allowing a



suspect effectively to be declared a criminal in a civil court would always be a proper course of action.

"The state ought to have the last word," she says. "There are situations in which it is counter to the public interest to prosecute someone in the civil courts and put them in peril of a very serious finding against them."

She says that until recently there was a clear division in people's minds between criminal and civil action, but this was now becoming blurred. "Also there did not seem any point in bringing an action that was very expensive against somebody who could not pay," she says. "But today the law is being used for political purposes to campaign and make political points. It may be that sometimes the legal costs are being paid either by the legal aid system or by some pressure group."

John Wadham, legal officer for the National Council for Civil Liberties, says that, although civil actions should not be impeded, as they are often the only way of remedying an injustice, male defendants in civil rape actions

need protection. "The failure of the police complaints system and the reluctance of the authorities to prosecute police officers leaves individuals who have suffered at the hands of police officers with only one realistic remedy and that is to take civil action against the police," he says.

"Of course, one of the difficulties for defendants in civil actions is that all the safeguards they would have if they were in a criminal action do not apply. Obviously, we would not want to prevent women in rape actions from suing but we would want male defendants to have proper safeguards and rights."

Jane Deighton, the London solicitor who has acted for Mrs Halford, supported her client's right to take action. She also cited discontent with what is seen as the authorities' failure to prosecute, particularly if police officers are under suspicion, as the reason for the rise in civil cases.

"There has been a massive groundswell of people wanting to take action against the police for false imprisonment or malicious prosecution," Ms Deighton says. "There has been a huge increase in the number of people prepared to put their side on record and claim compensation. Effectively that has opened up a whole area of civil matters that could quite properly be dealt with in the criminal courts."



Going it alone: Gail Halford is accusing two men of murder

## Law Report January 1 1991 Court of Appeal

# Stringent criteria for imposing custodial sentences on young offenders

Regina v Russell  
Regina v Blackburn  
Regina v Moore  
Regina v Marshall

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Judge

[Judgment December 21]  
Sentencing problems relating to young offenders on the proper construction of section 123(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 were considered by the Court of Appeal in a reserved judgment given by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice.

His Lordship, giving the judgment of the court, said that the key to the true construction of section 123(3) was the crucial distinction to be drawn between the stringent tests which had to be applied before any of the criteria were established and the consequences which followed

once one of those criteria had been established.

The court was precluded from passing a custodial sentence unless satisfied that a prison sentence would be passed on an offender aged over 21, and that the particular offender under 21 qualified for a custodial sentence.

Section 123(3) then defined the circumstances in which the offender so qualified. Unless he did qualify, a custodial sentence could not be passed. However, the section was not drafted in such a way that it precluded the passing of custodial sentences for offences which would not themselves satisfy the requirement that the offence of which he had been convicted or found guilty was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified.

Once it was established that the offender qualified for a custodial sentence by reason of one or other of the statutory criteria, there was no further restriction in section 123.

Section 123(3) of the 1988 Act provides: The following subsections shall be substituted for subsection (4) of section 1 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982: "(4) A court may not — (a) pass a sentence of detention in a young offender institution ... unless it is satisfied (i) in the circumstances, including the nature and gravity of the offence are such that if the offender were aged 21 or over the court would pass a sentence of imprisonment; and (ii) that he qualifies for a custodial sentence."

"(4A) An offender qualifies for a custodial sentence if — (a) he has a history of failure to respond to non-custodial pen-

alties and is unable or unwilling to respond to them; or (b) only a custodial sentence would be adequate to protect the public from serious harm from him; or (c) the offence of which he has been convicted or found guilty was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it cannot be justified."

The appeals were against sentences of detention in a young offender institution imposed by Judge Tucker, QC at Southampton Crown Court in July on pleas of guilty and commitments for sentences (without reference to breaches of probation and offences committed while on bail), of 18 months on Kevin John Russell, aged 20, for 11 burglaries, one attempted burglary and five thefts; of three years on Xan Blackburn, aged 19, for 17 burglaries, three attempted bur-

glaries, three thefts and one offence of going equipped for burglary; of 15 months and one week on James Moore, aged 20, for seven burglaries, four thefts and two offences of handling stolen goods; and of 12 months on David Marshall, aged 21, for nine burglaries, three thefts and one offence of going equipped for burglary.

On appeal the court's judgment was that the sentences in total were somewhat too severe and they were reduced. Russell's to 15 months, Moore's to 12 months and Marshall's to nine months.

Mr Ashley Ailes, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellants; Mr David C. Jenkins for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appeal raised yet

another problem concerning the proper construction of section 123(3).

In the case of each appellant the judge was satisfied that the circumstances were such that, if he had been aged over 21 years, a prison sentence would have been appropriate and that he qualified for a custodial sentence because he was convicted of at least one offence which was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified. He said nothing about qualification under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (4A).

It was correctly accepted that a prison sentence would have been appropriate for each appellant if he had been over 21 years, but it was argued that the judge was wrong to conclude that any of the burglaries was sufficiently serious to qualify under paragraph (c).

It was established beyond contradiction that, when considering paragraph (c), the court was not permitted to take an overall view of the defendant's criminality and sentence which properly reflected all the relevant features. Unless there was at least one offence of sufficient seriousness, the offender did not qualify for a custodial sentence under paragraph (c).

The courts had noted different anomalies but that did not affect the proper construction of the paragraph.

All the appellants had been involved in dwelling house burglaries. Like any other offence, dwelling house burglaries varied in their seriousness. Among the many features which any court was likely to consider were the extent to which the particular burglary was planned or premeditated, the numbers involved in it, whether it was committed by day or by night and whether any person was or might have been at home or might have witnessed any part of the burglary.

Sometimes daytime burglaries were committed following careful planning with the object of avoiding discovery and therefore, although not committed at night, the aggravating feature of premeditation was present.

Within the house, the activities of the burglar were of great significance. Questions of disturbance, ransacking, vandalism, fouling and hooliganism were all relevant; so, too, was the amount and value, both in monetary and personal terms, of any objects stolen.

The effect of the burglary on the victim and family was important. It was sometimes overlooked that the effect of burglary was in a very real sense an offence against the person as well as an offence of dishonesty. Even without direct personal injury the victims of burglaries could suffer anxiety and distress which might last for many years and far outweighed the value of the goods actually stolen.

Although dwelling house burglary was always a serious offence it was not always so serious that a non-custodial sentence could not be justified. An example would be a sneak thief walking past an open door who put his hand inside and stole a £5 note or some food.

For the purposes of paragraph (c) it could not be assumed that any dwelling house burglary was an offence which automatically required a custodial sentence. Each offence had to be judged individually. The value was not a decisive factor in decisions in that area or attempts to distinguish between different decided cases.

The court on appeal would not readily interfere with the conclusion of the trial judge that a particular dwelling house burglary was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified.

In the present case the judge expressly identified the offences which he considered were sufficiently serious to bring paragraph (c) into operation. Their Lordships had considered the detailed facts of the relevant counts and agreed with and accepted the judge's reasoning.

A more difficult and important problem concerning the proper construction of section 123(3) arose from Mr Ailes's argument that, even assuming each appellant qualified for a custodial sentence under paragraph (c), the court's jurisdiction to pass a custodial sentence on the appellants was limited to those individual offences which qualified for that purpose so that custodial sentences, whether consecutive or concurrent, for offences which did not qualify should not have been passed in this case.

That submission directly concerned all the offences of theft, some of the dwelling house burglaries and also sentences for offences which were originally dealt with by way of probation orders and conditional discharge. As consecutive sentences had been passed on each appellant for "non-qualifying" offences, the argument was of practical importance to them.

Their Lordships' attention had been drawn to *R v McCarroll* ((1990) Crim LR 660) where the court, after deciding that only one offence of robbery qualified for the purpose of paragraph (c), concluded that the appropriate course would be to impose no separate penalty. That decision was followed in *R v Marsden* ((1990) Crim LR 749).

The argument was, accordingly, that the appropriate order for all the appellants' offences which did not individually qualify for a custodial penalty should be no separate penalty.

The true construction of paragraph (c) and whether an individual qualified within it for a custodial sentence had revealed a number of anomalies and, if the present appellants' submission were correct, the result would be increased confusion and, indeed, absurdity.

The key to the true construction of section 123 was the crucial distinction to be drawn between the stringent tests which had to be applied before any of the criteria in subsection (4A) were established and the consequences which followed once one of those criteria had been established.

The court was precluded from passing a custodial sentence unless satisfied that a sentence of imprisonment would be

passed on an offender aged over 21 and that the particular offender under 21 qualified for a custodial sentence.

The section then defined the circumstances in which the offender so qualified. Unless he did qualify, a custodial sentence could not be passed.

However, the section was not drafted in such a way that it precluded the passing of custodial sentences for offences which would not themselves satisfy paragraph (c).

In particular, paragraphs (a) and (b) did not impose any such restriction. Once it was established that the offender qualified for a custodial sentence by reason of one or other of the statutory criteria, there was no further restriction in section 123.

Nothing in section 123(4)(A) or (B) led their Lordships to a different construction of section 123(3).

In *McCarroll* the court's attention was focused on the proper construction of paragraph (c) rather than on the quite separate question of the consequences which flowed once paragraph (c) had been established. In those circumstances the Lordships declined to follow *McCarroll* and *Marsden* which followed it.

Accordingly, their Lordships concluded that the correct approach to questions of sentence in cases involving young offenders was that the court must not pass a custodial sentence unless it was first satisfied that the offender qualified for a custodial sentence.

If, having considered the appropriate tests, the court concluded that he did qualify, then custodial sentences could be passed, if otherwise appropriate, for offences which were not in themselves individually so serious that a non-custodial sentence would not otherwise be justified.

In principle, therefore, that argument for the appellants also failed.

Nothing in the judgment was to be taken to undermine two principles.

First, the sentencing court had to be astute to ensure that, when consecutive sentences were appropriate in the case of young offenders, the total sentence was not excessive.

Further, and in particular, where a single indictment contained a number of counts, if the young offender qualified for a custodial sentence only because one or more of his offences came within paragraph (c), the sentencing court when sentencing for other offences should ask itself whether a consecutive sentence for any of those offences was really required, bearing in mind that, but for the qualifying offences, no custodial sentence of any sort could have been imposed.

The emphasis in cases involving young offenders now was that sentences should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary. The total sentences on the appellants were somewhat too severe.

Solicitors: CPS, Southampton.

## Delay meant committal was abuse

Regina v Telford Justices, Ex parte Hadham

Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Otton

[Judgment December 21]

Examining justices had power, as part of their inherent jurisdiction, to enquire into whether the initiation of the process of committal was an abuse of process and where such a question was raised by reason of lapse of time they should have asked whether a fair trial would be possible.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment granting an order prohibiting the Telford Justices from further proceedings with the committal proceedings of Piers Hadham on a charge of

rape under section 1(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 1976.

Mr Brian Escott Cox and Mr Balbir Singh for the applicant; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Frank Chapman for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE MANN, delivering the judgment of the court, said that a question of abuse was one which was within the ability of examining justices to decide. A plea of abuse should be open to the accused subject at the earliest opportunity. It was the duty of any court, be that court superior or inferior, to protect its process from abuse.

The alleged offence was committed on a day unknown between February 15, 1973 and February 14, 1974. Complaint was made in mid-September 1988.

Telford Justices considered the question of abuse of process but decided that as, for various reasons, the delay was justifiable there was no abuse of process.

A lapse of time for which the prosecuting authorities were not to blame could be such that an accused could be heard to say that a fair trial was no longer possible and the committal proceedings would therefore be an abuse of process.

Their Lordships concluded that a fair trial would not now be possible. The justices were wrong in focusing upon the justifiability of the delay in complaint. They should have asked whether a fair trial would now be possible.

Solicitors: Murria, Birmingham; CPS HQ.

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## BUSINESS

City Editor  
John Bell

TUESDAY JANUARY 1 1991

## Failure at Gatt 'may threaten 30,000 jobs'

FAILURE in the resumed Gatt talks this month could threaten 30,000 jobs in Britain's food and drink industry. The Food and Drink Federation, the umbrella body for the British industry, said success at the talks is vital to the £2 billion annual UK food and drink export business. Simon Harris, chairman of the federation's international trade working party, said: "Without a successful outcome we are likely to have a series of trade wars with many foodstuffs being the first to suffer."

In a separate move, Etac, the organisation of the European Largest Textile and Apparel Companies, said that the key decisions on textiles would be taken "in a few hours, by hurried and badly informed politicians".

## Boost for pound

The pound saw the year out boosted by weekend remarks from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, which appeared to rule out an early cut in interest rates, or a devaluation of sterling within the European exchange-rate mechanism. Though the currency climbed close to DM2.89 at its best, after closing at DM2.8768 last Friday, its gains came in an extremely thin market.

## Loan for Lasmo

Lasmo, the oil exploration and production concern, has ended 1990 the way it began - raising cash. The company has arranged a 13-year £175 million floating-rate loan facility with Barclays Bank, to be drawn down during 1991. The company's shares fell 5p to 377p.

## Key to Regina

Shareholders in Regina Health and Beauty Products, the USM company that markets royal jelly, have approved resolutions that will allow Shiraz Malik-Noor, a new investor, to exercise options that could give him effective control.

## IBA transfer

The engineering operations of the Independent Broadcasting Authority have been transferred to National Television Communications, a new holding company, as part of the preparation for their sale to the private sector.

## Lloyd's rates up

Lloyd's underwriters are increasing their war-risk hull rates for the Gulf region from today. The move anticipates the risk of war after the January 15 UN deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

## BA pulls out of joint venture with KLM and Sabena



King: seeking direct link

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has abandoned its planned £34 million investment in a new Brussels-based business airline. The company said it had agreed to dissolve the venture with KLM of The Netherlands and Sabena which was meant to create a new hub-and-spoke airline linking 75 cities throughout Europe through a central junction in the Belgian capital.

But the door has been left open for direct talks to continue between

Sabena, which is the Belgian national carrier, and British Airways in the hope of establishing a more direct link between the two.

Under the original plan, Sabena World Airlines would have bought a further 42 short-haul aircraft to provide a Europe-wide "bus service", ferrying businessmen from city centre to city centre via Brussels.

The plan also foresaw the need for a big redevelopment of Brussels airport itself, all of which is now being put on ice while a new scheme - probably a much more tangible

link between British Airways, headed by Lord King, and Sabena - is put into place.

The deal, in which British Airways and KLM would each have a 20 per cent stake, with Sabena controlling the rest, was conceived more than a year ago and should have been in place by now.

However, a combination of continued heavy losses at Sabena, bureaucratic interference by the European Commission and general financial problems faced by most world airlines brought the plans to an end. After a board meeting

yesterday, British Airways' deputy chairman and chief executive, Sir Colin Marshall, said the venture had been dissolved "with regret" because it had encountered "practical difficulties in completing it within the original time frame".

Privately, British Airways is unlikely to shed too many tears over the collapse of the deal.

The scheme had been regarded by many as "pie in the sky" and was clearly offending both the EC and many airline rivals who regarded it as another example of British Airways flexing its muscles within

Europe. With all airlines now having to cut back on spending, shareholders and investors in all three airlines will be delighted to hear that the millions put up to back a venture that was fraught with potential difficulties are now being returned.

At the same time, Pierre Godfroid, Sabena's chairman who took over the troubled airline only in November, is clearly trying to abandon all the schemes and ideas formulated by the old board and start again in an attempt to make the airline profitable.

## Resignations expected at Polly Peck

By ANGELA MACKAY

FOUR executive directors of Polly Peck International, including Asif Nadir, the chairman and chief executive, and at least four non-executive directors, are expected to resign imminently from the fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group.

Their departure, under pressure from the company's administrators, will mark a new phase in Polly Peck's abrupt metamorphosis from

market high flyer. In addition to Mr Nadir, three executive directors are also expected to resign. They are believed to be David Fawcus, group finance director; Mark Ellis, who runs the company's American operations; and Radar Reshad, the director of agriculture and food.

Most of Polly Peck's five non-executive directors are also expected to be affected: Neil Mills, a former director of Midland Bank; Larry Tindale, who is the deputy

chairman of 3i; Ulf Siebel, a banker and lawyer, and Sir Michael Sandberg, former chairman of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The resignations have been tipped since the company went into administration in October with debts of £1.3 billion. Administration effectively vests the management of a company in the accountants appointed by the court, in this case Richard Stone and Michael Jordan, from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, and Christopher Morris, from Touche Ross.

The administrators have been public in their thanks for the help they have received so far from senior Polly Peck executives including Mr Nadir. However, with investigations by the Serious Fraud Office intensifying over the past two weeks, co-operation has been hampered.

Two weeks ago, Mr Nadir was arrested and charged with 18 offences of theft and false accounting amounting to more than £25 million. He was later freed on bail of £3.5 million.

He had been helping the administrators to unlock information on the company's considerable assets in Turkey and northern Cyprus but Mr Nadir's missions to that region have been curtailed by the terms of his bail.

The four executive directors between them have annual salaries of just over £1 million while the non-executive directors receive less than £30,000 each.

Mr Nadir's personal fortune, once estimated at more than £200 million has been depleted by his company's problems. He owns a 25 per cent stake in Polly Peck but was unable to meet his commitments on the last few share purchases. As a result, a personal bankruptcy application was brought by BZW and Lehman Brothers, between them owed £22 million. The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Shares in Polly Peck were suspended at 108p on September 21 after news that the fraud squad had raided the offices of South Audley Management, an investment company owned by a Nadir family trust.

Initially, the administrators believed that some £200 million was on deposit in northern Cyprus, however this has been discounted.

That this money is no longer easily obtainable has made the administrators' job more urgent, and the prospect of the company's 70 banks being repaid a respectable proportion of their debt more remote.



Independent supporters Bernie Kingsley, Annelise Jespersen and Steve Davies leave the ground yesterday

## Spurs shareholders ruled offside

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ANGRY Tottenham Hotspur shareholders were denied the chance to question the three directors present at a stormy meeting.

Microphones were turned off as Douglas Alexiou, acting chairman, Frank Sinclair and Ian Gray, directors, refused to accept questions from the floor. They claimed they were not in a position to take enquiries because of insufficient information.

Irving Scholar, chairman of the football club, but no longer on the board of the holding company, did not attend the

meeting, even though he owns 26 per cent of the shares. However, he was present at the White Hart Lane ground.

More than 60 shareholders attended the extraordinary meeting, which the board was obliged to call before the year-end to fulfil company law requirements. Only one motion, calling for the meeting to be adjourned until further notice, was on the agenda.

This was initially rejected on a show of hands, but it was carried by a large majority on a proxy vote. Including proxies held by Mr Alexiou, the motion received 3.7 million

votes in favour, compared with 43,000 against.

"As an information exercise the meeting was absolutely disgraceful," said Stephen Pinner, a shareholder. Other shareholders described the meeting as "disgusting" and "unbelievable for the average supporter".

A further meeting will be called in the new year. Bernie Kingsley, of the Tottenham Independent Supporters Association, said the Tottenham board had been prepared to give only seven days' notice of the meeting despite shareholder calls for 21 days' notice. "People are very angry," he said. Shareholders have yet to receive a report and accounts for the financial year to May, although the club has said it will report "a significant overall loss" for the period and that it has breached the covenants on its £12 million borrowings.

The club ran into financial difficulties through diversification into unsuccessful leisure and sports ventures and had substantial cost overruns on a new stand at its north London stadium. Shares in the company were suspended in October.

The club ran into financial difficulties through diversification into unsuccessful leisure and sports ventures and had substantial cost overruns on a new stand at its north London stadium. Shares in the company were suspended in October.

## Comet to sue BSKyB for £10m

By OUR CITY STAFF

COMET, the electrical retailer which is part of Kingfisher, has issued a High Court writ, claiming about £10 million damages from British Sky Broadcasting.

Nigel Whitaker, Kingfisher's corporate affairs director, said the group was seeking redress for breach of contract. He said Comet signed a contract with British Satellite Broadcasting in March. Comet agreed to promote BSB's redress for breach of contract. He said Comet signed a contract with British Satellite Broadcasting in March. Comet agreed to promote BSB's redress for breach of contract. He said Comet signed a contract with British Satellite Broadcasting in March. Comet agreed to promote BSB's redress for breach of contract.

A spokeswoman for BSKyB said the group would not comment on legal matters. Comet has sold 17,000 of the redundant BSB dishes and has several thousand in stock. Mr Whitaker said BSKyB had agreed to replace BSB dishes with BSKyB dishes, but there was about £100 difference in price. People who had bought both BSB and Sky dishes would not be compensated.

## Telfos to meet Austrians over stake-building

By MARTIN BARROW

TELLOS Holdings, the railway engineering group, is planning talks with Austria's Jenbacher Werke, which is believed to hold a near-2 per cent stake in the company.

Stephen Cockburn, non-executive chairman of Telfos, said a meeting was scheduled for the second week of January, in London. "We want to find out what their intentions are at this stage," he said.

ICI Securities, the British broking arm of Istituto Mobiliare Italiano, has been acquiring shares in Telfos for an overseas client, widely believed to be Jenbacher. A third, unidentified party is thought to have acquired another 2.5 per cent.

East European interest centres on Telfos's 51 per cent stake in Ganz-Husniet, a joint venture with Hungary's state-owned Ganz electrical engineering group, as well as its contracts from British Rail.

Shares in Telfos fell 7p to 103p after the company announced that it was passing a preference share dividend payment due tomorrow because it lacks sufficient distributable reserves.

The deficit arises from the company's decision, announced in November, to provide £7.1 million against loss-making investment and property activities that are now for sale.

Telfos was estimated to have about £10 million in the bank at the interim stage and remains cash-positive, although it is unable by law to use these deposits to pay the preference dividend.

Directors had hoped to complete a disposal in time to pay the dividend. The current financial year has been extended by three months to March 31, 1991, "to allow further substantial progress to be made in the present programme of disposal of non-core investments and activities."

Further provisions will be made for the full year. Earlier this month Telfos agreed to sell its investment in Euro-magnetics Holdings to Virgin Management, its partner in the joint venture, for a nominal £1, having already provided £1.9 million against the full cost of the investment. However, contingent liabilities of £2.1 million have been called, exceeding the earlier provision by £1.6 million.

Mr Cockburn said it was likely that some provisions may be found to exceed losses made on the realisation of other investments but it was too early to write back any.

The deferred dividend would be paid "as soon as it is legally possible".

● Budapest: From tomorrow joint ventures with foreign companies no longer need a state licence. Tax breaks for new foreign joint ventures have been tightened so that only business deemed especially important for the Hungarian economy will qualify. (Reuters)

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.9280 (+0.0057)  
German mark 2.8867 (+0.0088)  
Exchange index 93.7 (+0.5)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1673.7 (-11.5)  
FT-SE 100 2143.5 (-16.9)  
New York Dow Jones 2621.29 (-7.92)

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%  
3-month interbank 14 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 13 1/4%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 6 1/4%  
3-month Treasury 5 1/4%  
30-year bonds 10 1/2%  
10-year 10 1/4%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£: \$1.9280  
£: DM2.8867  
£: Sfr2.4591  
£: FF5.8184  
£: Yen261.29  
£: Index53.7  
£: SDR 20.74468  
£: ECU 1.12748  
£: SDR 1.34399

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$391.00 pm \$391.00 (2202 75-203 50)  
New York:  
Comex \$392.25-392.75

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ..... \$29.10 bbl (\$27.80)  
Dumort latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.57	2.42
Austria Sch	21.30	19.90
Belgium Fr	66.40	65.40
Canada \$	2.35	2.20
Denmark Kr	11.63	10.93
Finland Mk	7.35	6.91
France Fr	10.20	9.80
Germany DM	10.02	9.62
Greece Dr	321	301
Hong Kong \$	15.55	14.75
India Ru	1.134	1.054
Italy Lira	2275	2125
Japan Yen	226.50	220.50
Netherlands Gld	3.266	3.185
Norway Kr	11.80	11.10
Sweden Kr	10.20	9.70
Spain Ptas	165	157
Switzerland Fr	2.07	2.01
Turkey Lira	8200	5400
USA \$	2.82	2.68
Yugoslavia Dnr	30.00	28.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)



## One compelling reason for a diversified energy programme

The Middle East holds two-thirds of known oil reserves.

Any instability in the region puts the world's oil markets on edge. And when oil prices start to rise, those of gas generally follow suit.

By contrast the cost of nuclear power is unlikely to be affected by events in the Gulf. Uranium for Britain's nuclear power stations is mined in countries such as Canada,

Australia and the USA. And the quantities of uranium needed are so small it is easy to keep supplies in reserve.

It would be unwise to assume that the present oil crisis will be the last. It's reassuring, therefore, to know that nuclear power can help stabilise Britain's energy costs.

If you would like to know more about nuclear energy, please send for our information pack.

Tel: 081-205 7090 for a free information pack.

Or write to: The British Nuclear Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

BRITISH NUCLEAR FORUM

The voice of Britain's nuclear power industry.

Market report, page 25

## 'Be courageous' call by ICI chief

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES will need to keep cool and be courageous in the coming year as the recession provides British industry with a particularly testing time, one of Britain's leading industrialists says today.

But Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest chemical company, also strikes an optimistic note for British industry by predicting that companies such as ICI will come through the months ahead in better shape.

In a new year message, which is also being distributed to ICI employees, Sir Denis forecasts that 1991 will be "a testing year for British industry".

The year begins with "even greater uncertainties about the world's economies, overshadowed by the crisis in the Gulf, and we are entering the old year with business confidence at a much lower level than 12 months ago".

He says that "in the short run,



Sir Denis: 'keep cool' message

businesses will face hard and painful decisions to focus and sharpen their activities". The new year will be a test of quality for many companies.

But he is more optimistic when he says: "In a recession, it always looks as if

things will never pick up - but they always do. In the meantime, we need to keep our courage, keep cool and get our heads down to our key tasks."

ICI itself, with what Sir Denis says is its proven ability to measure up to harsher economic circumstances, "will emerge stronger and more keenly focused than ever".

He added that processes such as the opening up of eastern Europe, the growing strength of the Asia Pacific market and the advent of the single European market at the end of 1992 would not easily be thrown into reverse, and would for many companies provide a solid platform for exciting growth in the years to come.

He said of ICI specifically: "I have no doubt that we shall come through the challenging months ahead in even better shape, for one reason above all others - and that is the quality of ICI people, and the effort and determination we bring to our tasks."